

"It's going to
be fun seeing
where Aaron
and company
take this book
next."

— Newsarama

THE

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

AVENGERS



AARON
PICHILLI
MARQUEZ
MCGUINNESS

WORLD TOUR

MARVEL

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

THE AVENGERS



WORLD TOUR

ON A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, A DARK CELESTIAL INVASION LED IRON MAN, THOR AND CAPTAIN AMERICA TO RE-FORM THE AVENGERS, ADDING BLACK PANTHER, CAPTAIN MARVEL, SHE-HULK AND GHOST RIDER TO THEIR RANKS. NOW THEY PROTECT THE WORLD AS THE MIGHTY AVENGERS!



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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES

WORLD TOUR

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AVENGERS CREATED BY
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

7 FIRE AND BONE



EARTH. ONE MILLION B.C.

I WAS BORN INTO
A SMALL PACK
OF **CAVE FOLK**
STRUGGLING TO
SURVIVE ON THE EDGE
OF THE **BIG WHITE**.

IT WOULD BE A
LONG TIME BEFORE
I'D HAVE A **NAME**.

IN MY PACK, THERE WERE
NO SUCH THINGS AS NAMES.
WE RECOGNIZED EACH OTHER
BY OUR FACES OR SMELLS.

WE COMMUNICATED
WITH GRUNTS AND FISTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHO
MY FATHER WAS. DON'T
THINK MY MOTHER DID
EITHER. I LEARNED
EVERYTHING SHE HAD TO
TEACH ME BY THE
TIME I COULD WALK.

EVEN AS A CHILD, I WAS
ALREADY **SMARTER** THAN
EVERYONE I KNEW. WHICH
WAS MY GREAT SECRET.

MY GREAT
SHAME.

I WAS DIFFERENT,
AND DIFFERENT WAS
FRIGHTENING TO MY
PEOPLE. DIFFERENT
WOULD GET YOU CAST
OUT, LEFT IN THE
SNOW TO STARVE.

I NEVER
UNDERSTOOD
THEIR FEAR...

...UNTIL THE
STRANGER
CAME.



A STRANGER
FROM ACROSS
THE BIG WHITE.

NO ONE FROM
MY PACK HAD
EVER DARED TO
EVEN *ENTER*
THE BIG WHITE.

HE TRAVELED ALONE,
WHICH WAS CERTAIN
DEATH OUT HERE.

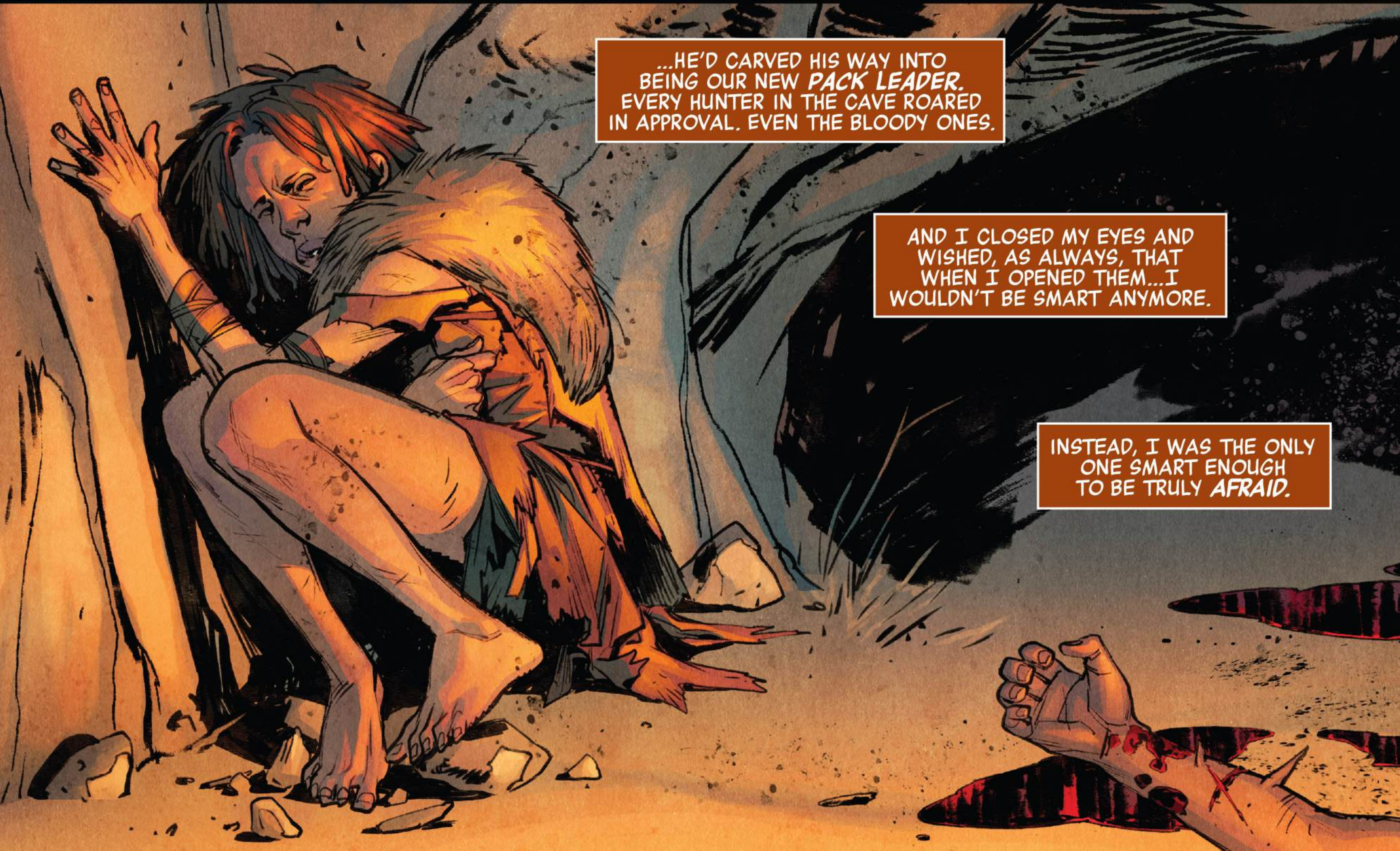
ONLY SABERCATS
AND WALKING
MOUNTAINS
TRAVELED ALONE.

AND HE DIDN'T
LOOK LIKE EITHER.



BUT HE WIELDED
WEAPONS OF A
SORT WE'D NEVER
SEEN BEFORE.

AND IN THE TIME IT'D
TAKE A HUNGRY WOLF
TO DEVOUR A BABY...



...HE'D CARVED HIS WAY INTO
BEING OUR NEW *PACK LEADER*.
EVERY HUNTER IN THE CAVE ROARED
IN APPROVAL. EVEN THE BLOODY ONES.

AND I CLOSED MY EYES AND
WISHED, AS ALWAYS, THAT
WHEN I OPENED THEM...I
WOULDN'T BE SMART ANYMORE.

INSTEAD, I WAS THE ONLY
ONE SMART ENOUGH
TO BE TRULY *AFRAID*.



I KNOW
HOW *ALONE*
YOU FEEL.



YOU'VE
NEVER MET
ANYONE ELSE
LIKE YOU, HAVE
YOU?



IT'S OKAY.
YOU CAN SPEAK
FREELY. I WON'T
LET THEM HURT
YOU IF THEY
HEAR.



I DIDN'T
KNOW...

...THERE
WERE
OTHERS...

...WHO
COULD
MAKE THE
SOUNDS.



THERE ARE
A FEW. SCATTERED
AMONG THE PACKS
OF APE-MEN ALL
ACROSS THE
LAND.

ALL OF THEM
BORN *DIFFERENT*.
SMARTER THAN THEY
HAVE ANY RIGHT
TO BE.

HOW IS THIS?
HOW DO I KNOW
THESE THINGS?



I COME FROM A PACK THAT FEARED EVERYTHING OUTSIDE THEIR CAVE.

THEY'D SCREAM AND CRY EVERY NIGHT WHEN THE BIG RED BALL WENT AWAY. THEY ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WORLD WAS *ENDING*.

EVERY SINGLE NIGHT OF MY LIFE.

AND THEN, ONE PARTICULARLY DARK EVENING...THEY WERE FINALLY *RIGHT*.



IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WE'RE BORN DIFFERENT. BUT THE *WHY* IS CLEAR.

WE ARE THIS WORLD'S TRUE *MASTERS*.



AND *THEM*?

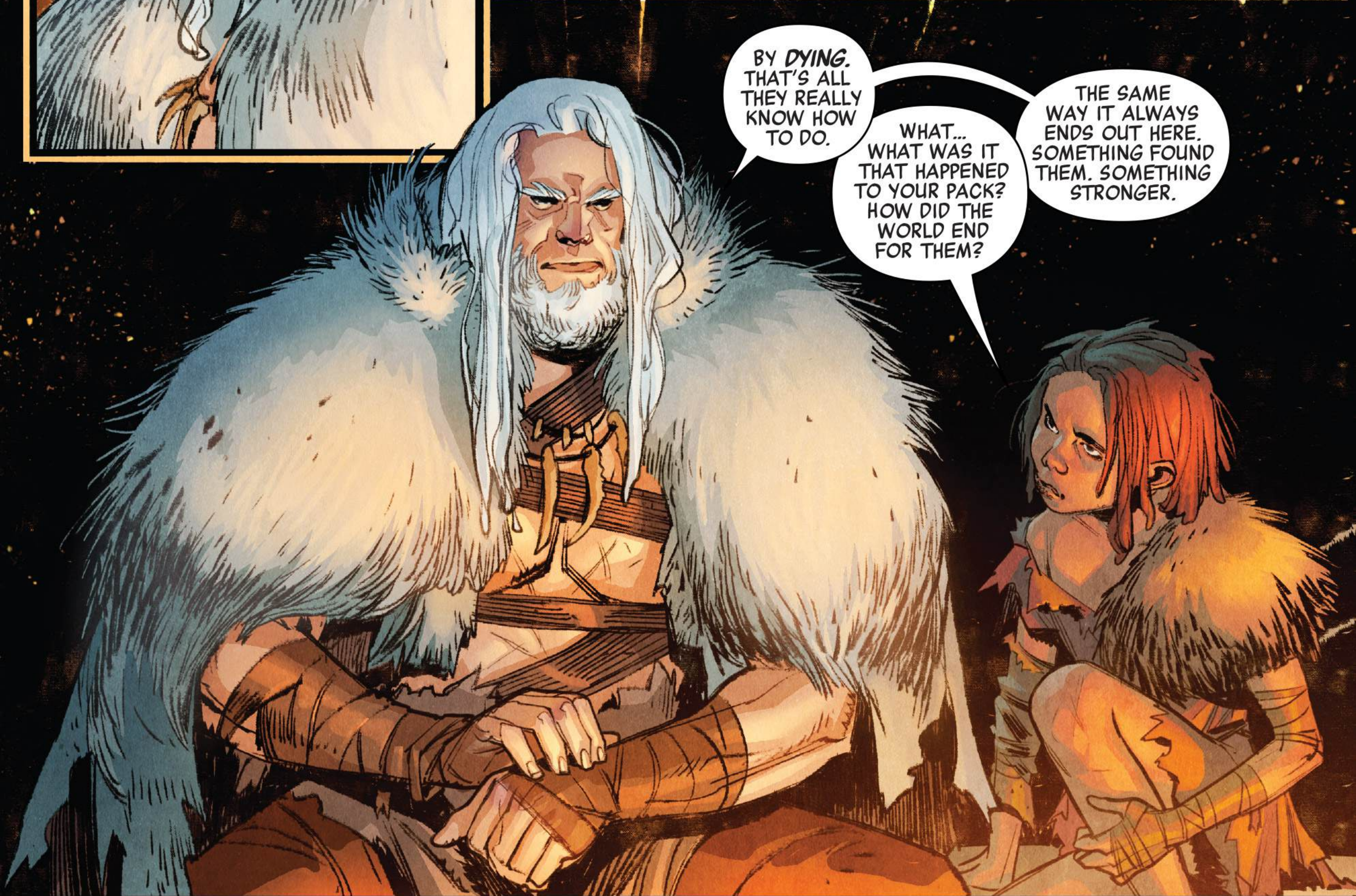
THEY HELP US BECOME WHAT WE'RE MEANT TO BE.

HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

BY *DYING*. THAT'S ALL THEY REALLY KNOW HOW TO DO.

WHAT... WHAT WAS IT THAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PACK? HOW DID THE WORLD END FOR THEM?

THE SAME WAY IT ALWAYS ENDS OUT HERE. SOMETHING FOUND THEM. SOMETHING STRONGER.



SOMETHING *HUNGRY*.



IN ONE NIGHT,
HE KILLED AND
ATE THEM ALL.

EVERYONE
I'D EVER
KNOWN.



RRRRGGHH!!!

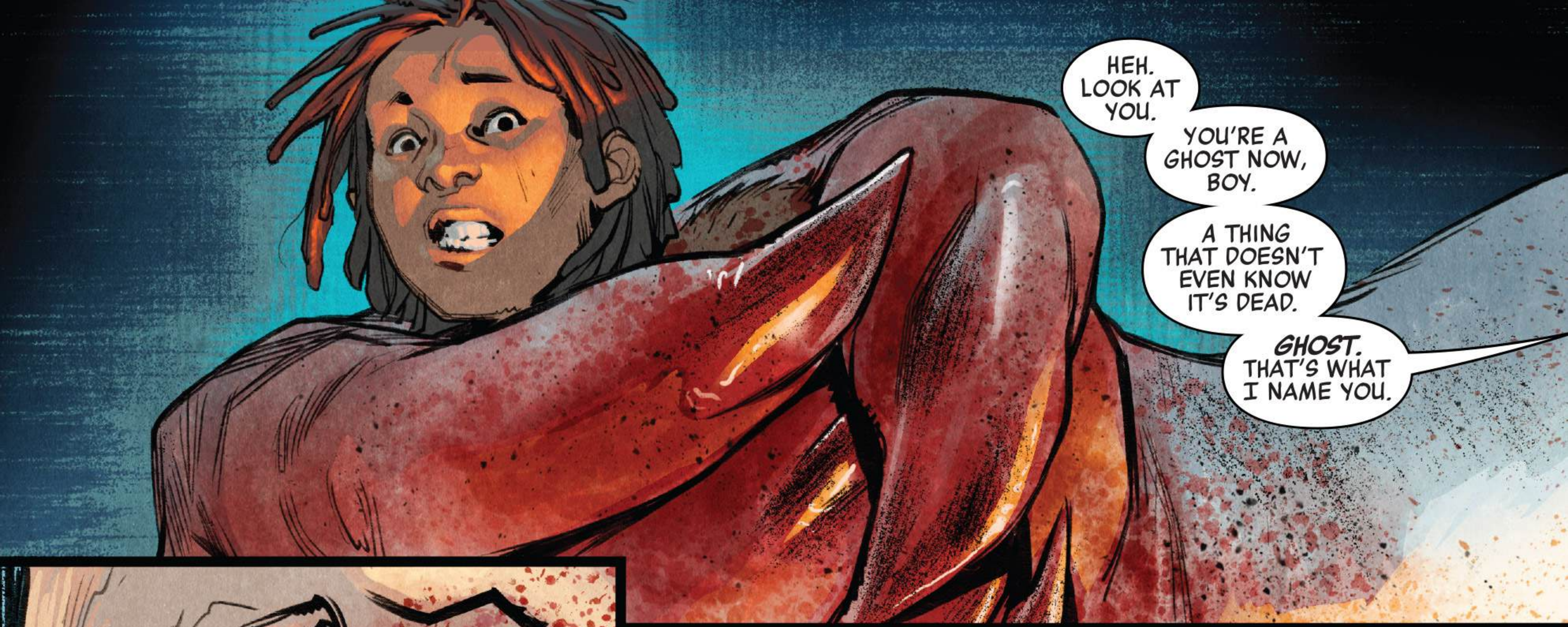
HE WASN'T
A SABERCAT
OR A WALKING
MOUNTAIN.

HE WAS
SOMETHING
MUCH WORSE.



HUGHK.

SOMETHING FOR
WHICH...I HAD
NO WORDS.



HEH.
LOOK AT
YOU.

YOU'RE A
GHOST NOW,
BOY.

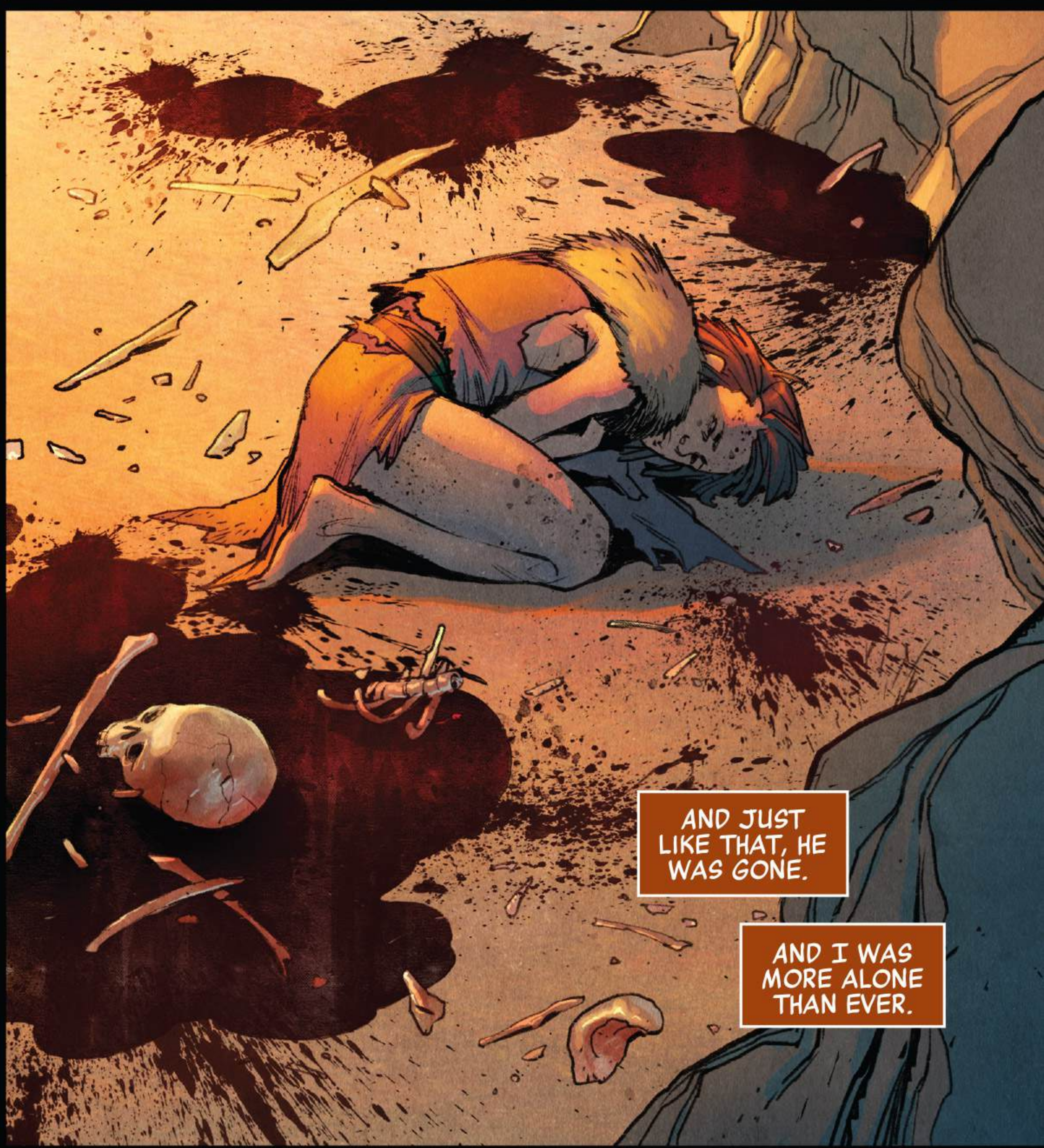
A THING
THAT DOESN'T
EVEN KNOW
IT'S DEAD.

GHOST.
THAT'S WHAT
I NAME YOU.



IF YOU
WANT TO
KNOW *MY*
NAME...COME
AND FIND
ME.

IF YOU
CAN.



AND JUST
LIKE THAT, HE
WAS GONE.

AND I WAS
MORE ALONE
THAN EVER.

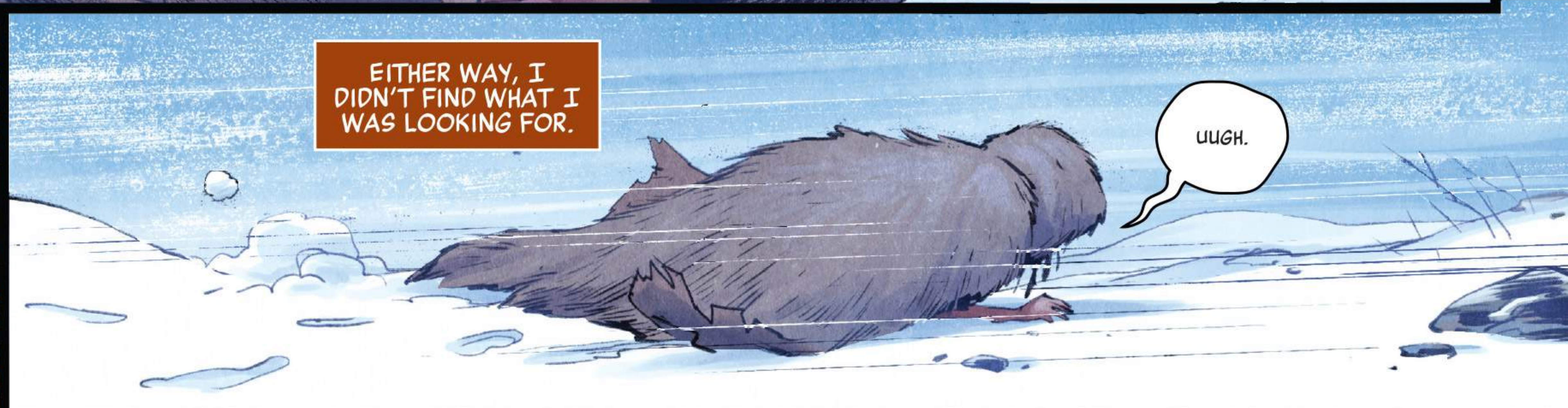


AND THE WORLD
OUTSIDE MY CAVE
WAS SUDDENLY MORE
DANGEROUS THAN I
HAD EVER IMAGINED.



IF HE COULD SURVIVE
THE BIG WHITE, THEN
SO COULD I, I TOLD
MYSELF.

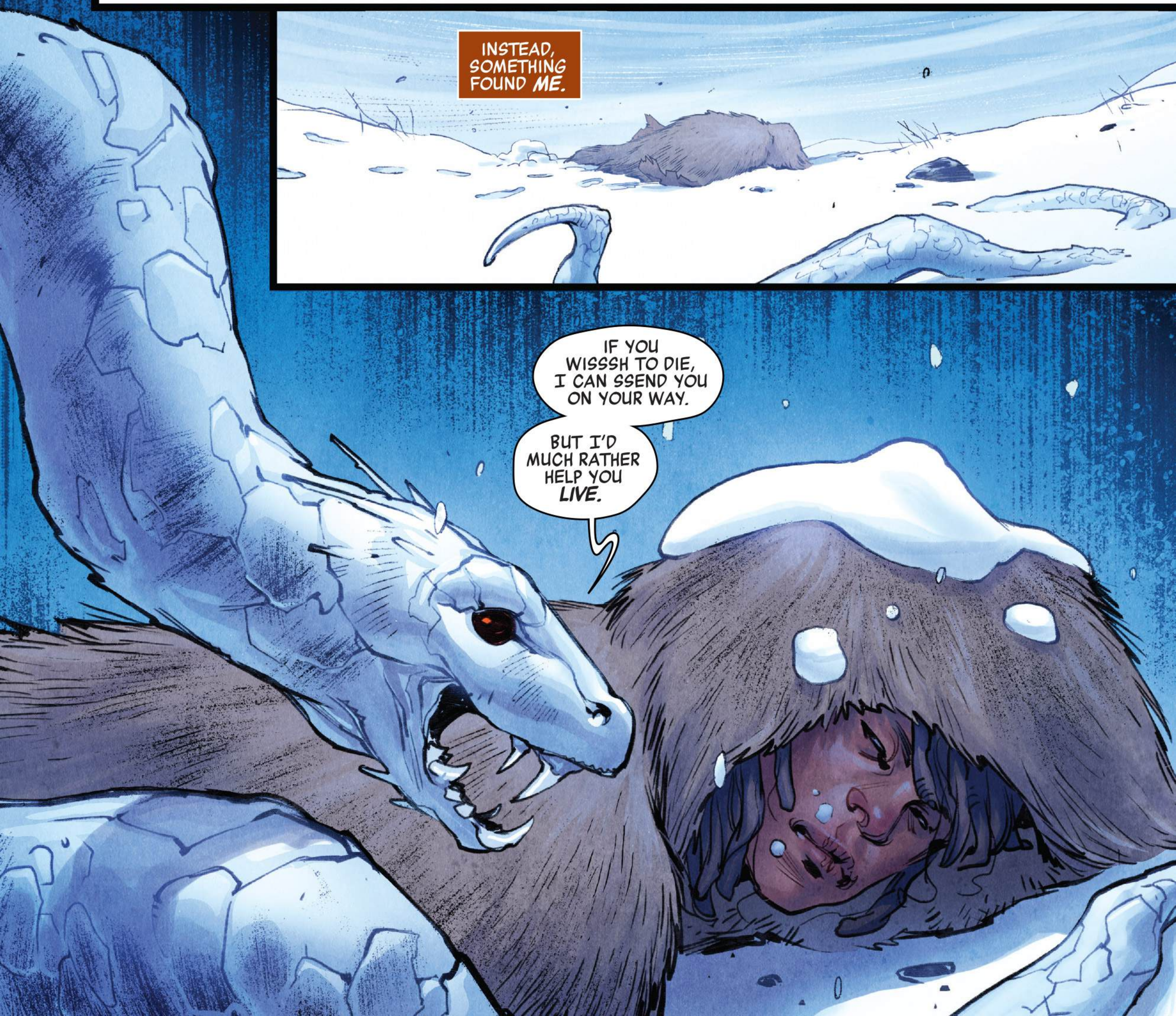
OR MAYBE I WAS
JUST LOOKING
FOR AN EASY
WAY TO DIE.



EITHER WAY, I
DIDN'T FIND WHAT I
WAS LOOKING FOR.



INSTEAD,
SOMETHING
FOUND ME.



IF YOU
WISSSH TO DIE,
I CAN SSEND YOU
ON YOUR WAY.

BUT I'D
MUCH RATHER
HELP YOU
LIVE.



SNAKES...
CAN'T
TALK.



HOW DO YOU KNOW? YOU
ONLY JUSST LEARNED
HOW TO TALK
YOURSELF.

DIDN'T
YOU? LITTLE
GHOSST.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW
THAT NAME?
WHAT ARE...
UGHK.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
SSEARCHING FOR
OUT HERE, MY YOUNG
FRIEND. I KNOW
WHAT YOU WANT
ABOVE ALL
ELSE.

AND I'M
THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN GIVE
IT TO YOU.



PAIN.

PUNISHMENT.

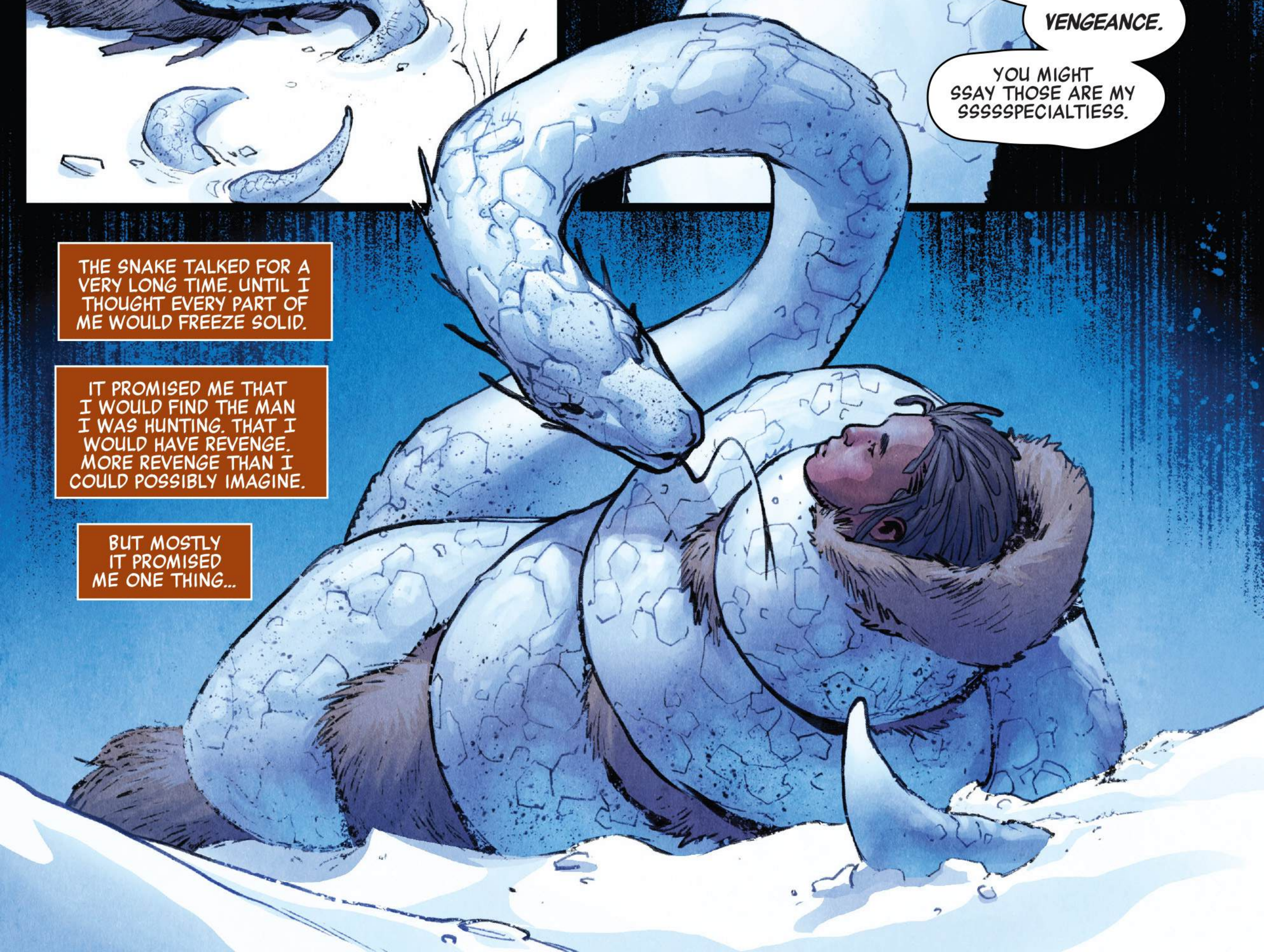
VENGEANCE.

YOU MIGHT
SSAY THOSE ARE MY
SSSSSPECIALTISS.

THE SNAKE TALKED FOR A
VERY LONG TIME. UNTIL I
THOUGHT EVERY PART OF
ME WOULD FREEZE SOLID.

IT PROMISED ME THAT
I WOULD FIND THE MAN
I WAS HUNTING. THAT I
WOULD HAVE REVENGE.
MORE REVENGE THAN I
COULD POSSIBLY IMAGINE.

BUT MOSTLY
IT PROMISED
ME ONE THING...





WARM. DON'T YOU WANT TO BE WARM AGAIN?

IT'S SSSO VERY COLD OUT HERE, ISN'T IT?

BUT DON'T WORRY, MY SSSWEET GHOST. I CAN MAKE IT SSO YOU'RE NEVER COLD AGAIN.



JUST SSAY MY NAME. NAMESS ARE POWER IN THIS WORLD. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU, GHOSST?

YOU KNOW MY NAME. SSAY IT. IT'S RIGHT THERE ON THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE.

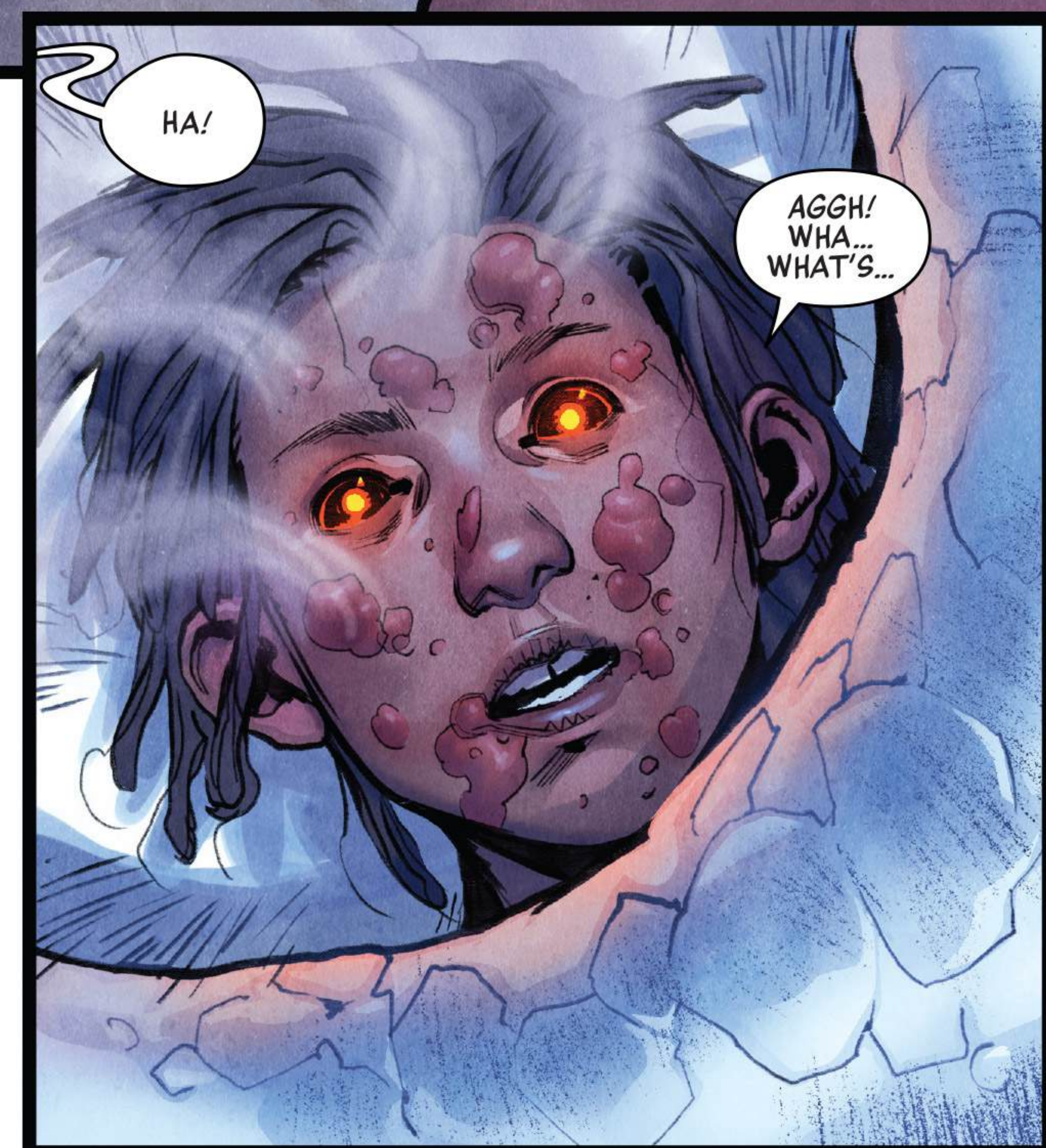
SSAY MY NAME AND OUR DEAL ISS DONE.



MHM...

MUHH...

MEPHISTO.



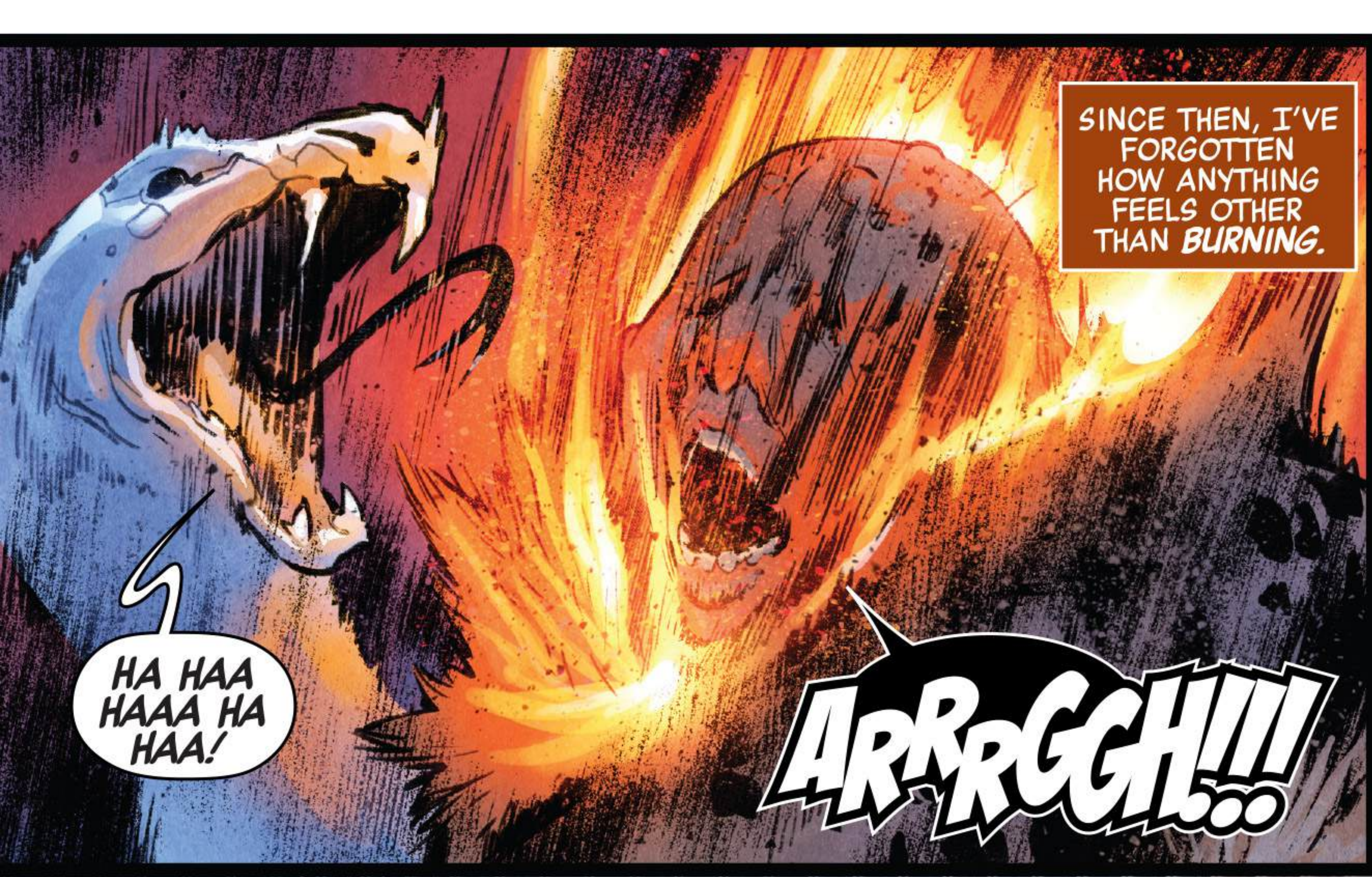
HA!

AGGH! WHA... WHAT'S...



I WOULD COME TO MISS THE COLD.

ARRRGH!!!



SINCE THEN, I'VE
FORGOTTEN
HOW ANYTHING
FEELS OTHER
THAN *BURNING*.

HA HAA
HAAA HA
HAA!

ARRRGH!!!



SPLLTCH



BUT AT LEAST
I WASN'T
ALONE ANYMORE.

RRRRGGGH!

FIVE YEARS LATER.

IN THE TIME
SINCE THEN,
I'VE BEEN GIVEN
NEW NAMES.

THE RIDER, THEY
CALL ME. BECAUSE
MOST HAVE NEVER
SEEN A MAN
ASTRIDE A BEAST.

—SNFF—SNFF—

HEH.

NOT THAT I'M A
MAN ANYMORE,
REALLY. I'M WHAT
HE NAMED ME.

I'M MORE
GHOST
THAN MAN.

MORE FIRE THAN
FLESH. MORE SPIRIT
THAN BONE.

'BOUT
TIME,
BOY.

THE SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE.





HGGK!

IT TOOK
A LOT OF
RIDING, BUT I
FOUND YOU.



A LOT OF
FOLLOWING
THE RUIN
YOU LEAVE BEHIND
WHEREVER YOU
WANDER.

BUT NO
MORE.

I'VE COME
FOR YOUR NAME.
AND EVERYTHING
ELSE YOU'VE
GOT.



LITTLE GHOST.
ALL GROWN UP
AND TOUCHED
BY FIRE.

YOU
SURPRISE ME,
BOY.

I'M NOT
A BOY ANYMORE,
YOU MONSTER.



AND **I'M** NOT
A **MONSTER**. JUST
A MAN WHO DOES
WHAT IT TAKES
TO SURVIVE.

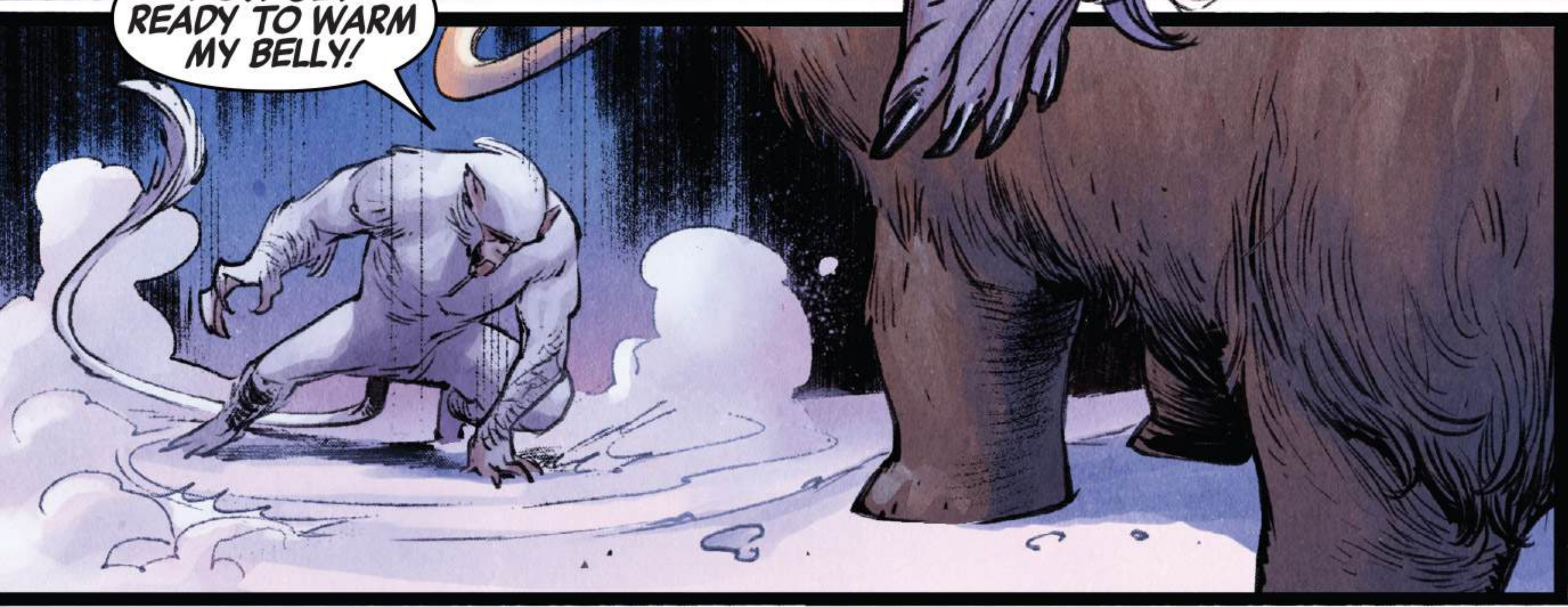
YOU WANT
MY NAME, RIDER?
I'LL TELL YOU.

BUT IT'S
THE LAST
THING YOU'LL
EVER HEAR.

WEN-DI-GO!



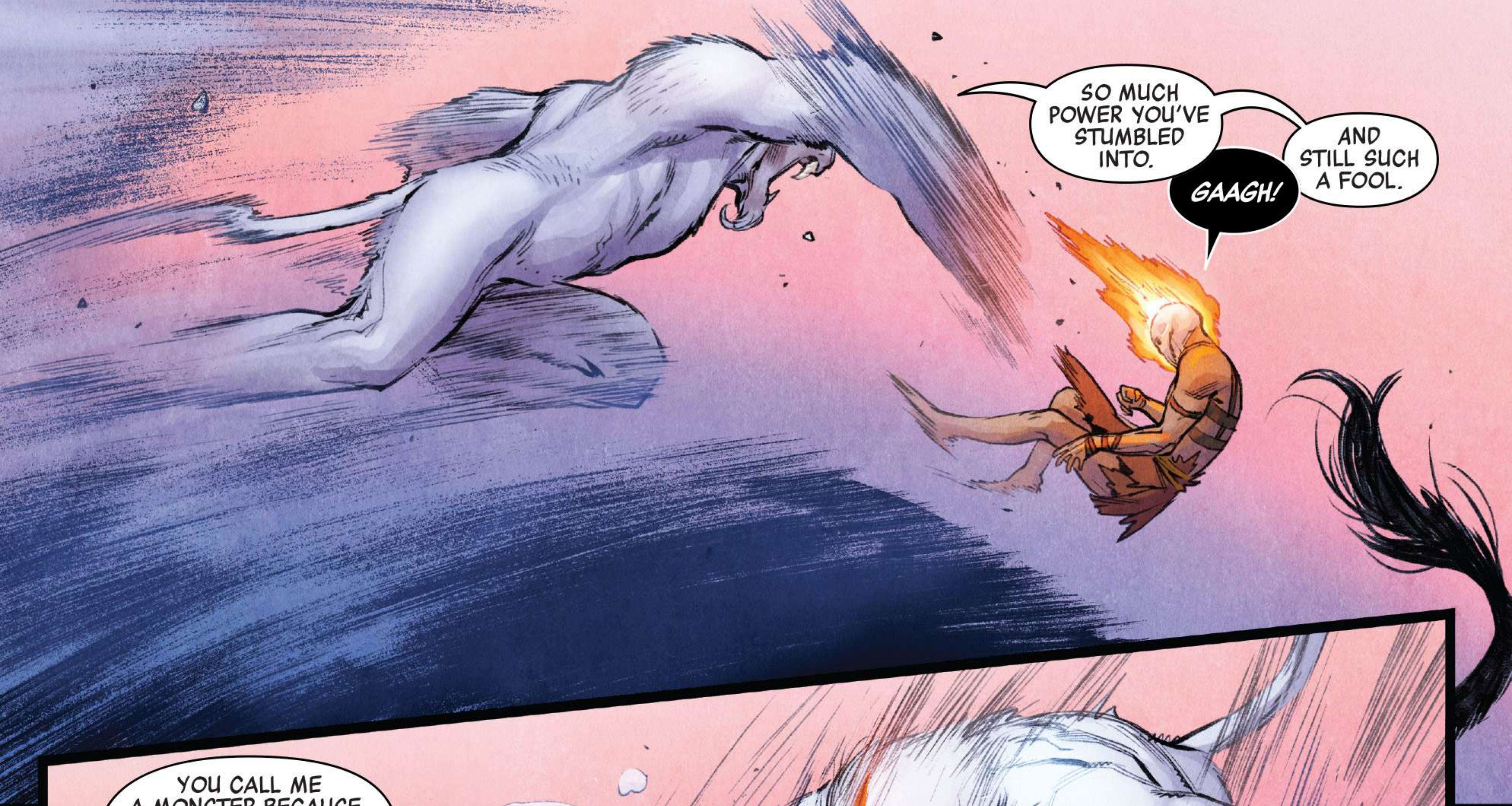
NOW GET
READY TO WARM
MY BELLY!



OH, WE'LL
WARM YOU UP
ALL RIGHT!

FWWOOSH





SO MUCH
POWER YOU'VE
STUMBLED
INTO.

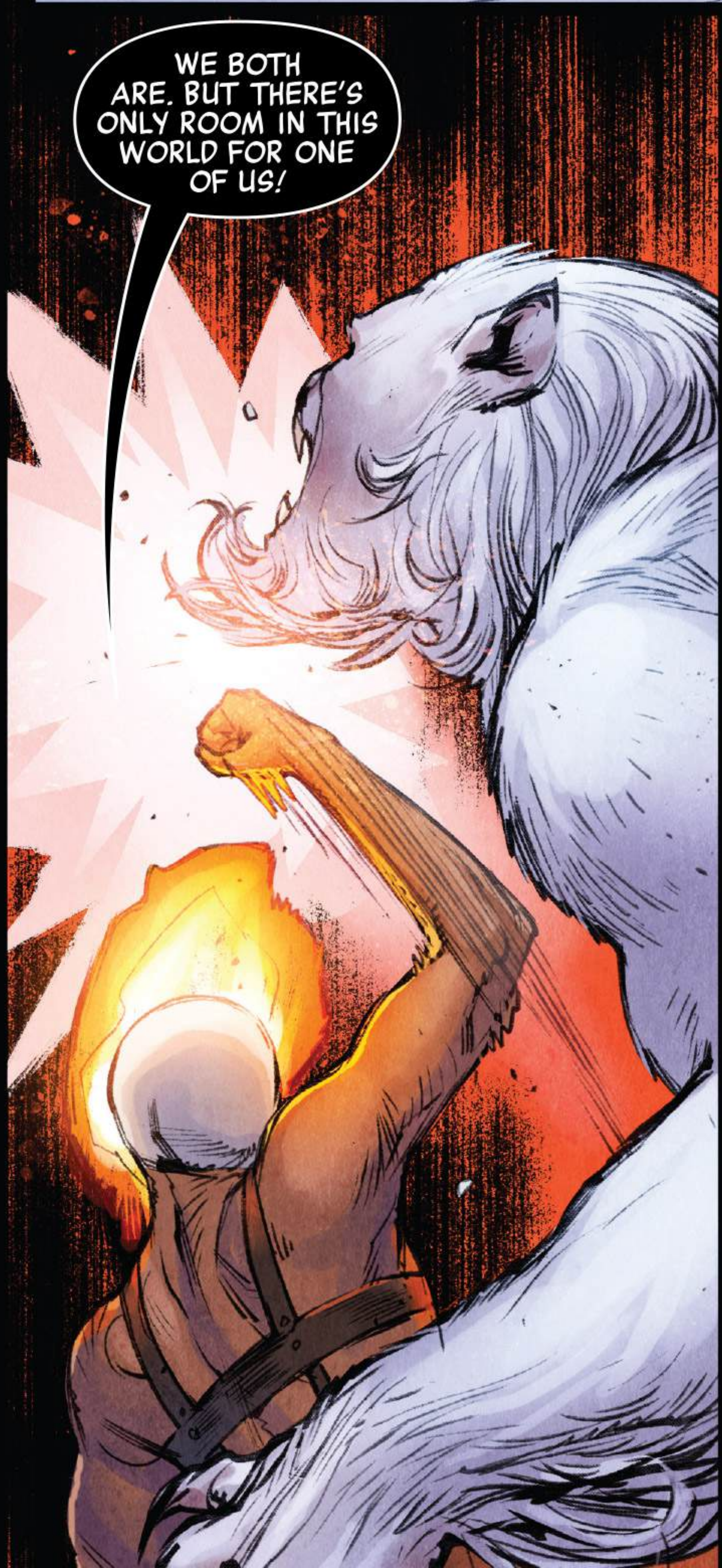
AND
STILL SUCH
A FOOL.

GAAGH!



YOU CALL ME
A MONSTER BECAUSE
I FEED ON MANFLESH.
BUT I SEE THE TRUTH IN
YOU, RIDER. *YOU* FEED
ON *SOULS*.

WHO'S
REALLY THE
BIGGER
MONSTER?



WE BOTH
ARE. BUT THERE'S
ONLY ROOM IN THIS
WORLD FOR ONE
OF US!



YOU REALLY
THINK WE'RE THE
ONLY MONSTERS IN
THE WORLD?

YOU'RE
MORE OF A
FOOL THAN I
THOUGHT,
BOY.

UUUGH!



THIS...THIS IS YOUR *DEN*, ISN'T IT? BY THE STARS...

HOW MANY HAVE YOU EATEN?



NOT ENOUGH. IT'S *NEVER* ENOUGH.

THE MORE I EAT, THE STRONGER I GROW, THE LONGER I LIVE.

SOON, I WILL BE LIKE THE *GODS*.

THE BONES SAY DIFFERENT, WENDIGO.

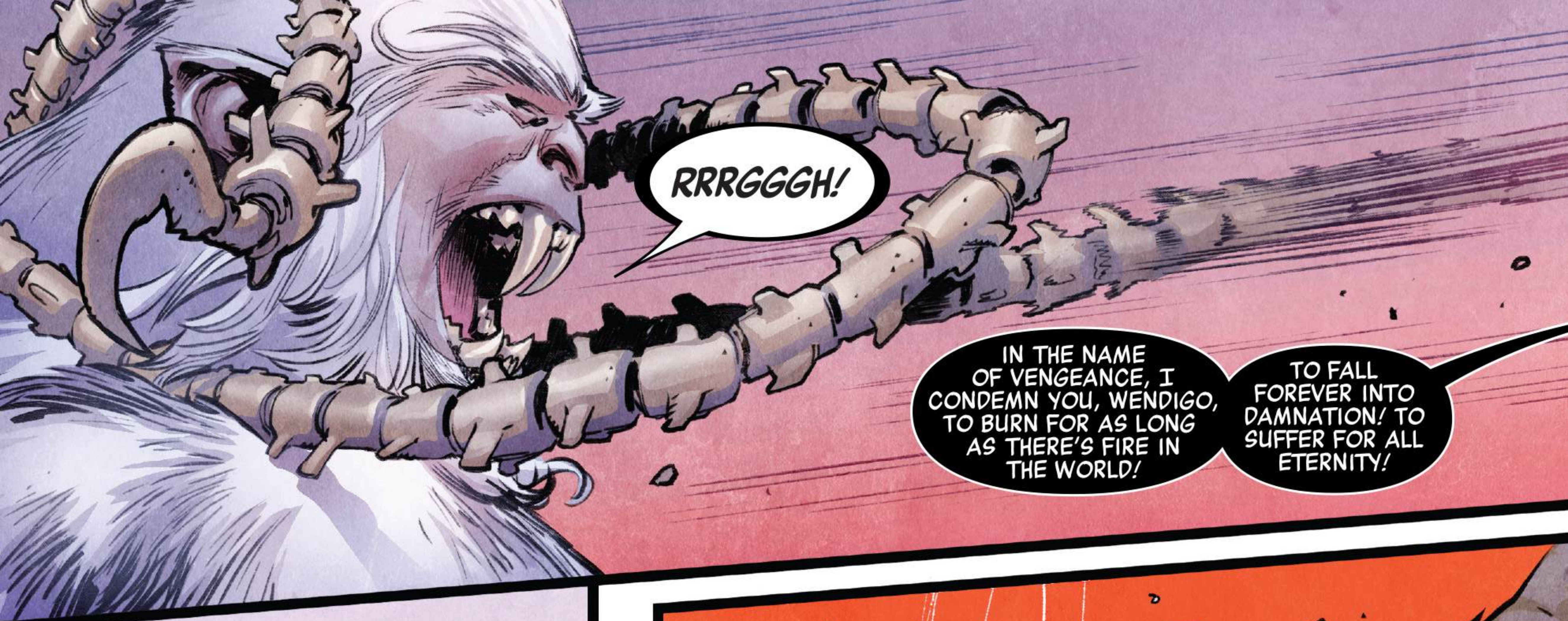


THE BONES SAY YOU'VE EATEN YOUR FILL.

GRRRGH!



NOW IT'S THEIR TURN TO FEED.



RRRGGGH!

IN THE NAME
OF VENGEANCE, I
CONDEMN YOU, WENDIGO,
TO BURN FOR AS LONG
AS THERE'S FIRE IN
THE WORLD!

TO FALL
FOREVER INTO
DAMNATION! TO
SUFFER FOR ALL
ETERNITY!



JUST
LIKE ME.

HRRRRGGGH!!!



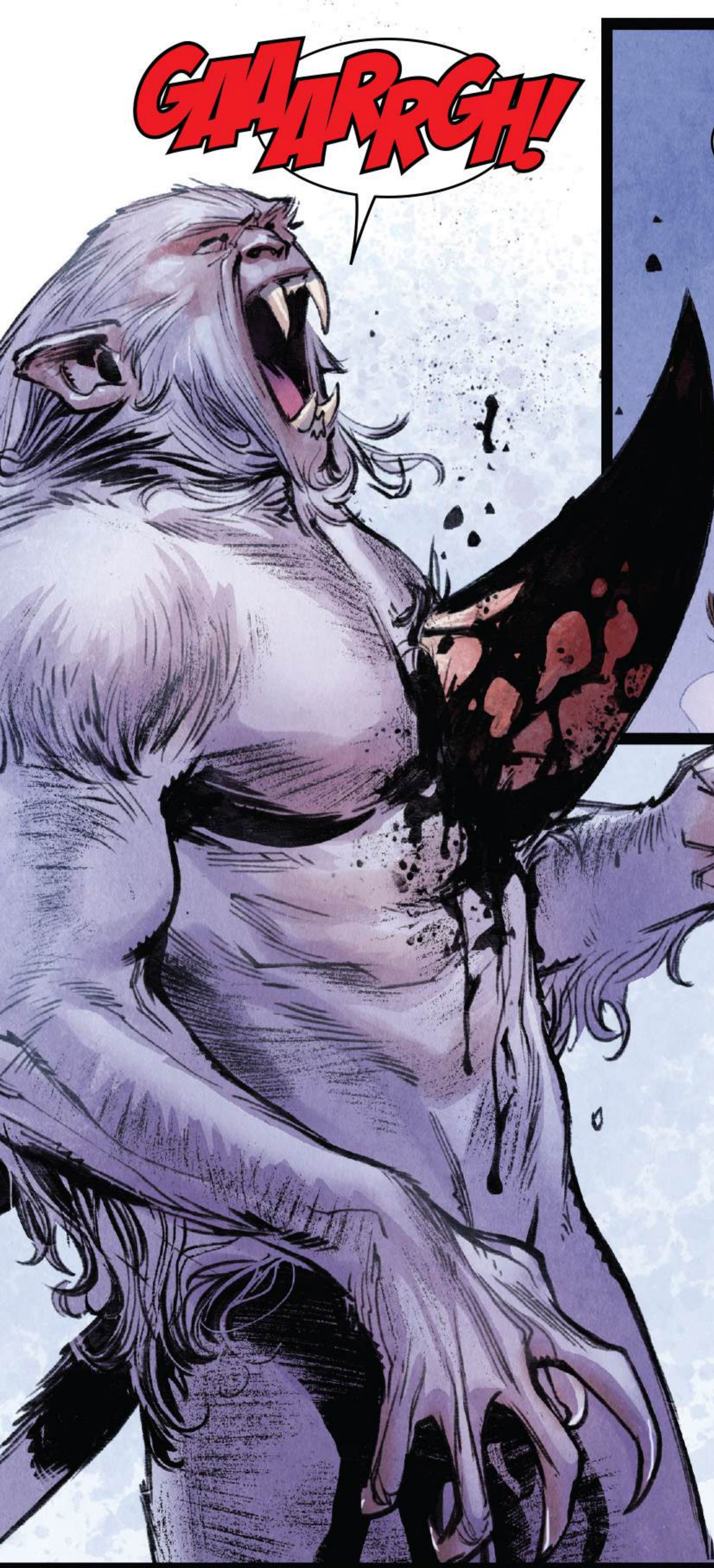
NO!

HNNGH!

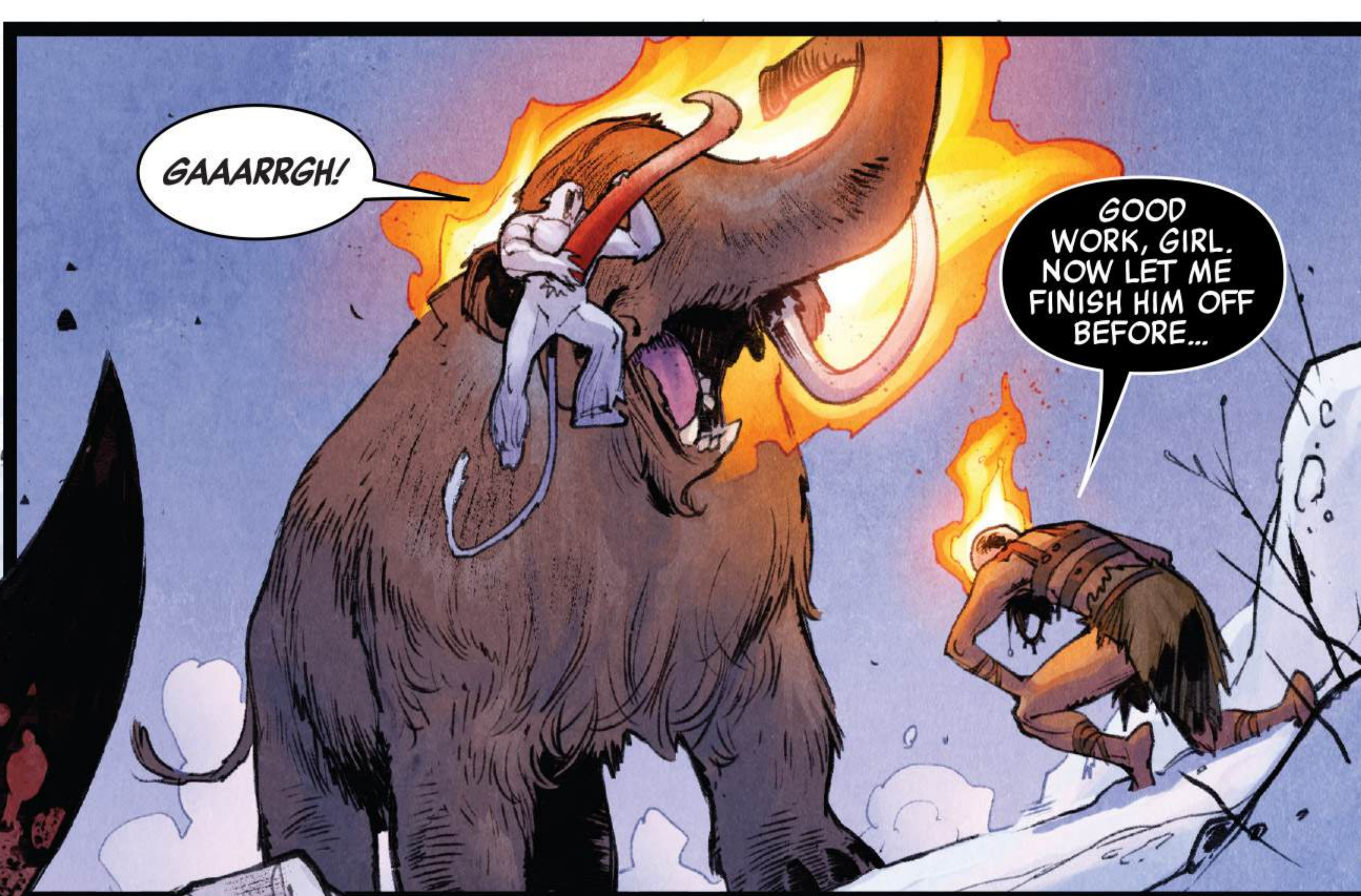


AS LONG AS
THERE IS **HUNGER**,
THERE WILL BE
THE WENDIGO!

THE WENDIGO
IS THE STRONGEST
ONE THERE--



GAAARRGH!



GAAARRGH!

GOOD
WORK, GIRL.
NOW LET ME
FINISH HIM OFF
BEFORE...

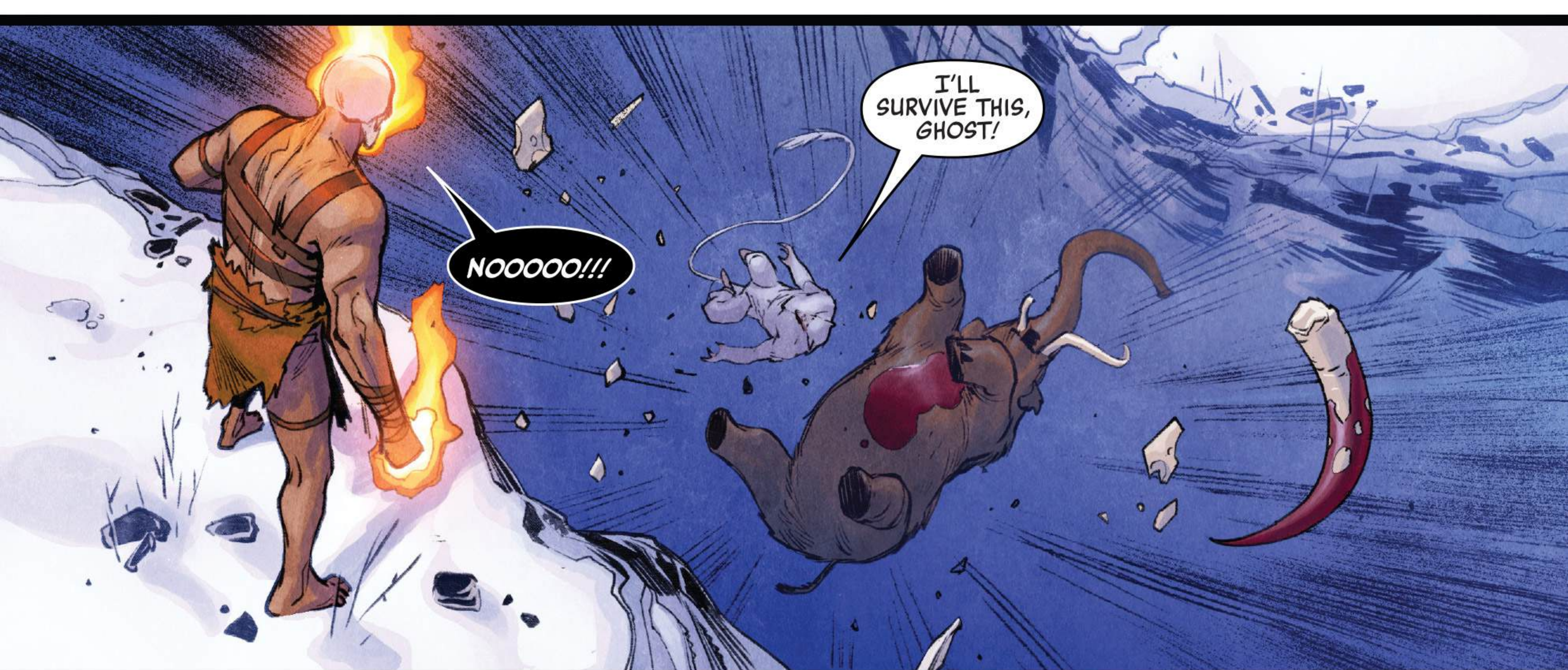


RELYING
ON ANIMALS--
YOU'LL NEVER
BE STRONG
ENOUGH.



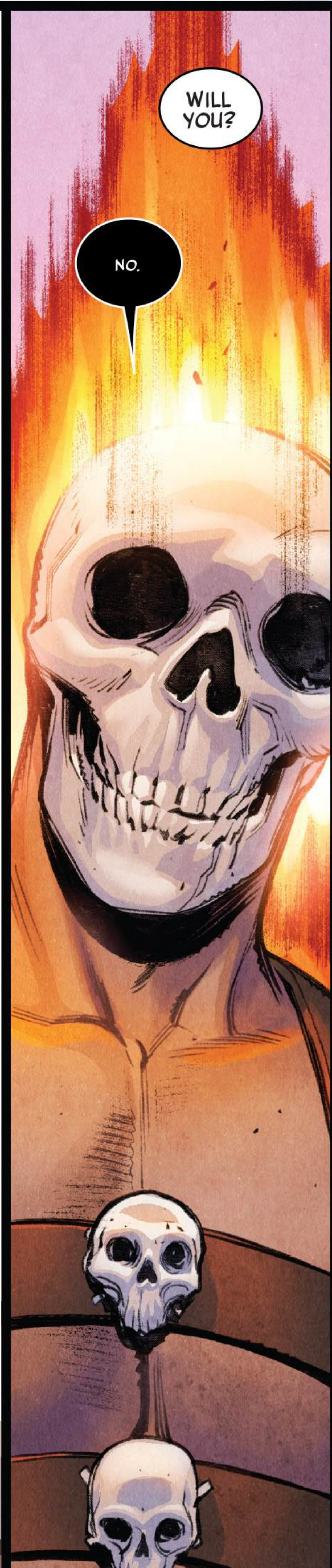
NOT UNTIL
YOU BECOME
ONE YOURSELF.
I CAN HELP
WITH THAT.

NO!



I'LL SURVIVE THIS, GHOST!

NOOOOO!!!



WILL YOU?

NO.



ALONE.



ALWAYS ALONE.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I BURN, I WILL NEVER--

YOU'RE NOT ALONE.



AND NOT ALL OF US ARE MONSTERS LIKE THE WENDIGO.

WHAT IN THE...

YES, I CAN HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS. I'M DIFFERENT. LIKE YOU, GHOST.

AND I
NEED YOUR
HELP.

ODIN
AND I BOTH
DO.

HE'S A
BIT **BOMY**, LADY
PHOENIX. I STILL
SAY WE SHOULD'VE
GONE WITH THE
HAIRY ONE.

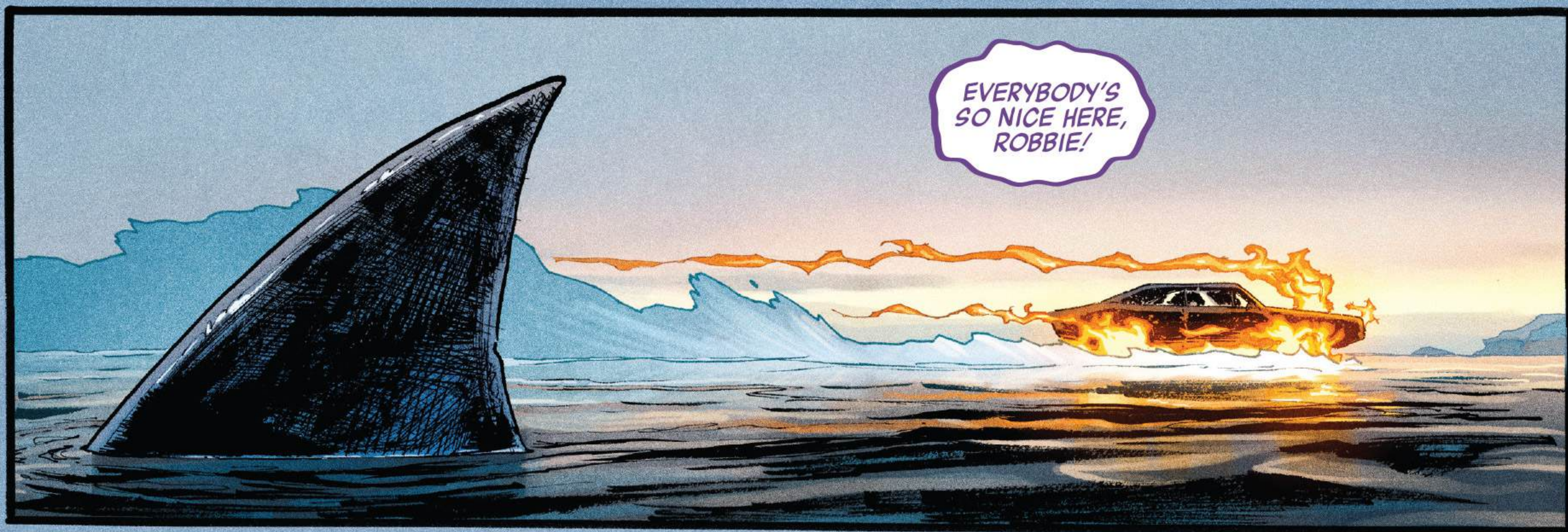
YES, RIDER,
THERE ARE
OTHERS JUST
LIKE YOU. AND
TOGETHER...

...WE'VE
GOT A WORLD
TO SAVE.



8 INSIDE AVENGERS MOUNTAIN





EVERYBODY'S
SO NICE HERE,
ROBBIE!

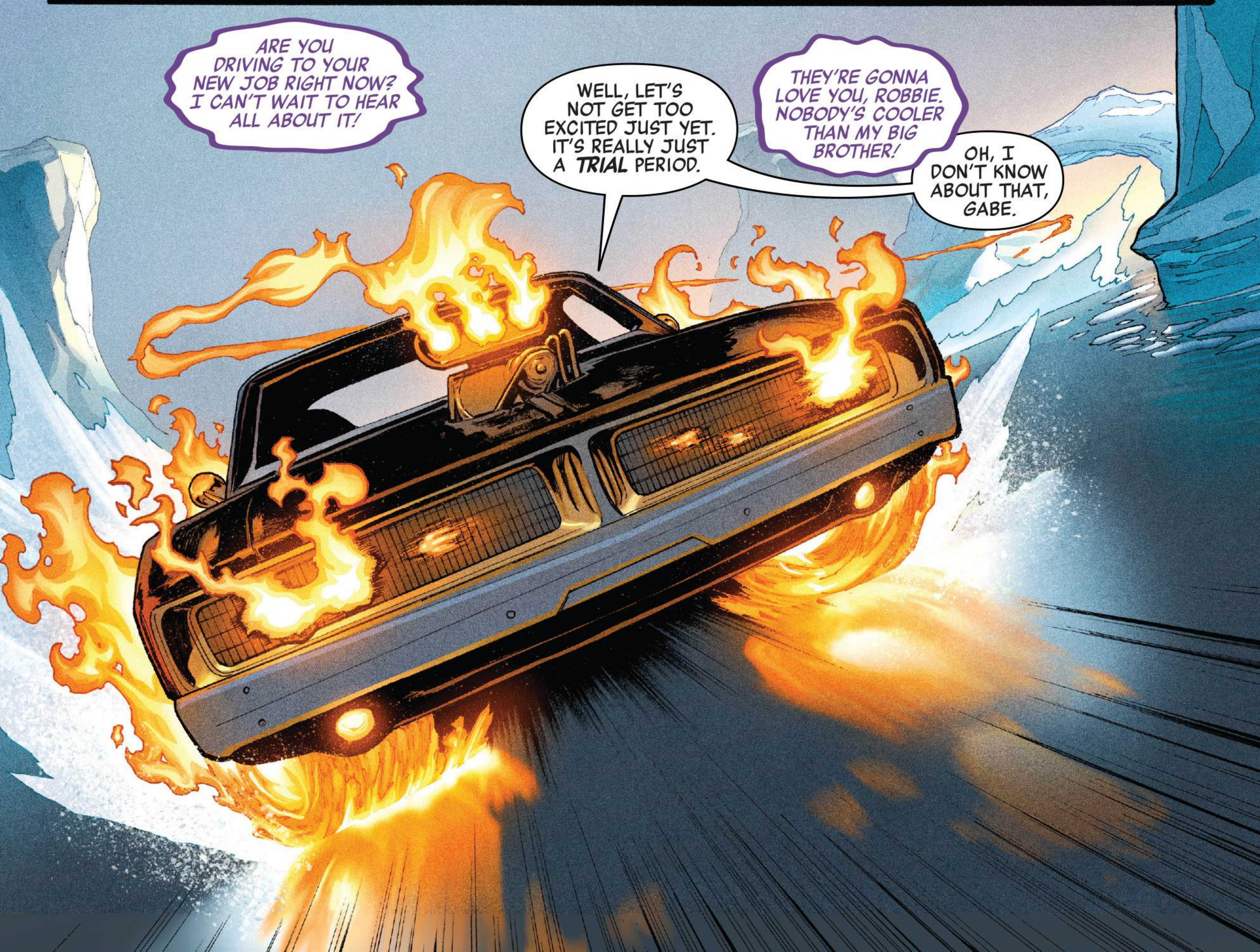


I ALREADY
MADE THREE NEW
FRIENDS!

THAT'S
GREAT,
GABE.

PLEASE TELL
MR. PANTHER MAN
THANK YOU SO MUCH
FOR LETTING ME INTO
HIS AFTER-SCHOOL
PROGRAM!

I WILL. AND
YOU CALL ME IF
YOU NEED ANYTHING,
OKAY, BUD?



ARE YOU
DRIVING TO YOUR
NEW JOB RIGHT NOW?
I CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR
ALL ABOUT IT!

WELL, LET'S
NOT GET TOO
EXCITED JUST YET.
IT'S REALLY JUST
A **TRIAL** PERIOD.

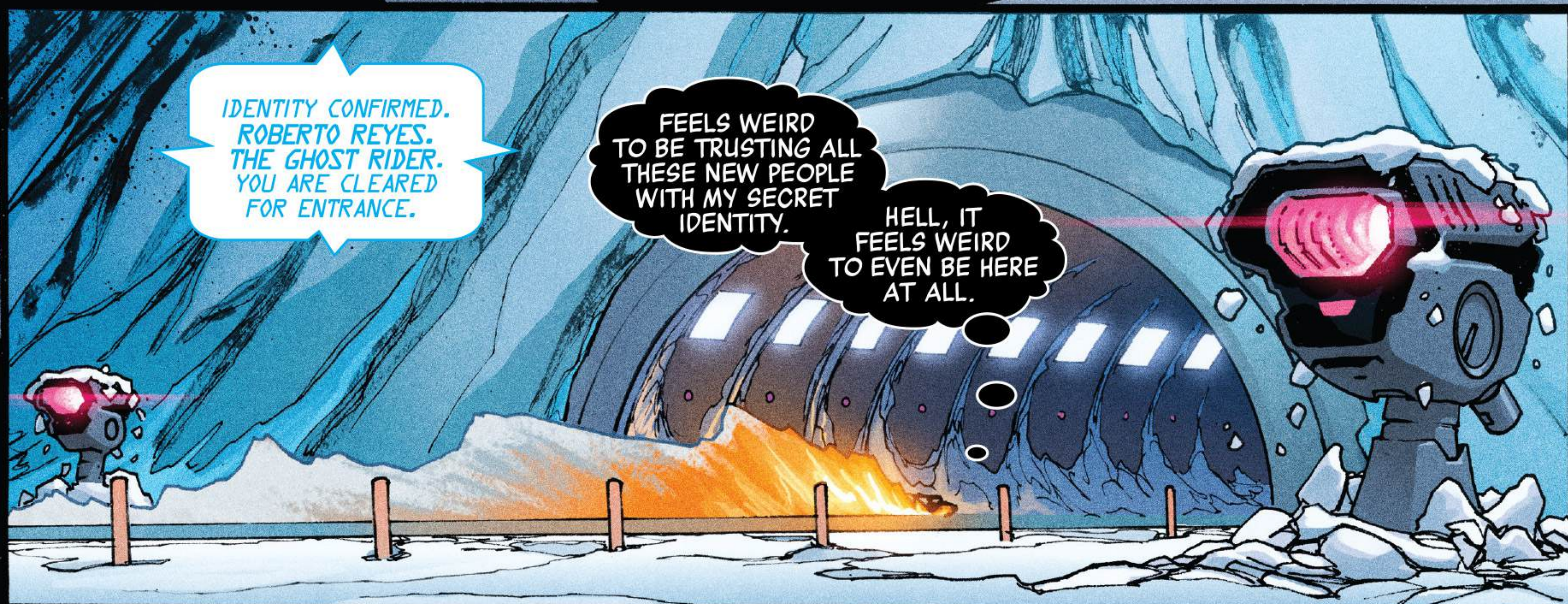
THEY'RE GONNA
LOVE YOU, ROBBIE.
NOBODY'S COOLER
THAN MY BIG
BROTHER!

OH, I
DON'T KNOW
ABOUT THAT,
GABE.

THE NORTH POLE.
AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
NEW GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS
OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.



THE PEOPLE
AT THIS PLACE
ARE ABOUT AS
COOL AS YOU
CAN GET.



IDENTITY CONFIRMED.
ROBERTO REYES.
THE GHOST RIDER.
YOU ARE CLEARED
FOR ENTRANCE.

FEELS WEIRD
TO BE TRUSTING ALL
THESE NEW PEOPLE
WITH MY SECRET
IDENTITY.

HELL, IT
FEELS WEIRD
TO EVEN BE HERE
AT ALL.



GHOST RIDER
AS AN AVENGER?
YEAH, THAT'LL
NEVER WORK.

BUT...IT'S
SURE GONNA BE
ALL KINDS OF CRAZY
FUN GIVING IT
A TRY.



WELCOME TO
THE AVENGERS,
ROBBIE.

I HOPE
YOU'RE READY
TO WORK HARDER
THAN YOU'VE EVER
WORKED IN
YOUR LIFE.



OKAY, SO
MAYBE I
OVERESTIMATED
THE FUN PART.

YOU
BETCHA, UM,
CAP. *SIR*.

JUST
CALL ME
STEVE.

YES,
SIR, STEVE,
SIR.

YOU
FINISHED YOUR
HOMEWORK
FIRST, I
HOPE?

YEAH, ON
THE WAY HERE.
THE CAR LIKES TO
DRIVE ITSELF EVERY
ONCE IN A WHILE. AM
I THE ONLY AVENGER
WHO'S STILL IN
HIGH SCHOOL?

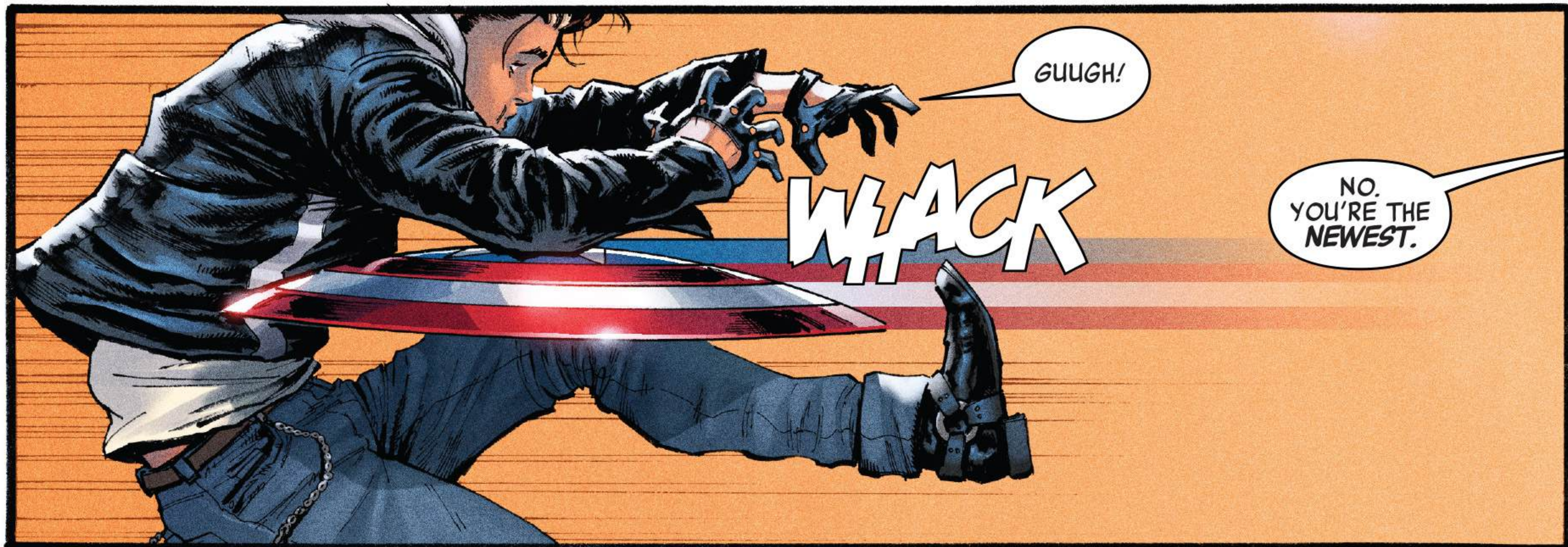
YES. THOUGH
I'M PRETTY SURE
THOR GOT KICKED
OUT LONG BEFORE
HE EVER GRADUATED
FROM ANYTHING.
BUT DON'T LET
IT BOTHER YOU,
ROBBIE.

YOU'RE
ALSO THE ONLY
AVENGER WHO COULD
TAKE CONTROL OF A
DEAD CELESTIAL,
TRANSFORM IT INTO A
*2,000-FOOT-TALL GHOST
RIDER* AND SAVE THE
ENTIRE WORLD FROM
*COMPLETE
ANNIHILATION*.

HEH. YEAH,
THAT *WAS*
PRETTY
COOL.

ALSO SUPER
TERRIFYING!
DON'T LET CAPTAIN
AMERICA SEE HOW
STUPID SCARED
YOU ARE!

SO AM
I, LIKE...THE
STRONGEST
AVENGER
ON THE--



GUUGH!

WHACK

NO.
YOU'RE THE
NEWEST.

EVERYONE ELSE INSIDE THIS MOUNTAIN HAS BEEN SAVING THE WORLD LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN POTTY-TRAINED.

TIME TO SHOW ME THE OTHER DAY WASN'T A FLUKE.

SHOW ME YOU REALLY ARE AN AVENGER, GHOST RIDER.

OH MAN! I'M ABOUT TO FIGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA!

WAIT. UM, IS THIS A TRICK? IF I FIGHT YOU, IS THAT LIKE I'M... TRYING TO BURN THE FLAG?

I'M NOT A FLAG. JUST AN OLD MAN WHO'S ABOUT TO KICK YOUR BEHIND. HOPE YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF SHIELD, KID.

NO THANKS! I ATE LUNCH AT SCHOOL!

MAN, THIS WAS A LOT EASIER WHEN I DIDN'T TALK. GONNA HAVE TO WORK ON MY WITTY COMEBACKS.

AND I HOPE YOU LIKE THE TASTE OF HELLFIRE, STEVE!

SIR!

GRRGH. WHERE ARE THE LATRINES?! THOR MUST DISPOSE OF MEAD!

THIS DAMNED PLACE IS LIKE A MINOTAUR'S LABYRINTH! CURSE THOSE DAMNED CELESTIALS!

DAYS EARLIER.

LOOKS
LIKE THAT'S
IT.

THE FINAL
HOST IS
DEFEATED.

WE DID
IT! WE SAVED
THE WORLD!

DON'T GET
TOO EXCITED, KID.
WE'LL ONLY HAVE TO DO
IT ALL OVER AGAIN
TOMORROW.

JENNIFER?
MY GOD, ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT?

THAT...WAS
UNLIKE ANY
HULK-OUT I'VE
EVER EXPERIENCED.
WHAT THE HELL'S
HAPPENED
TO ME?

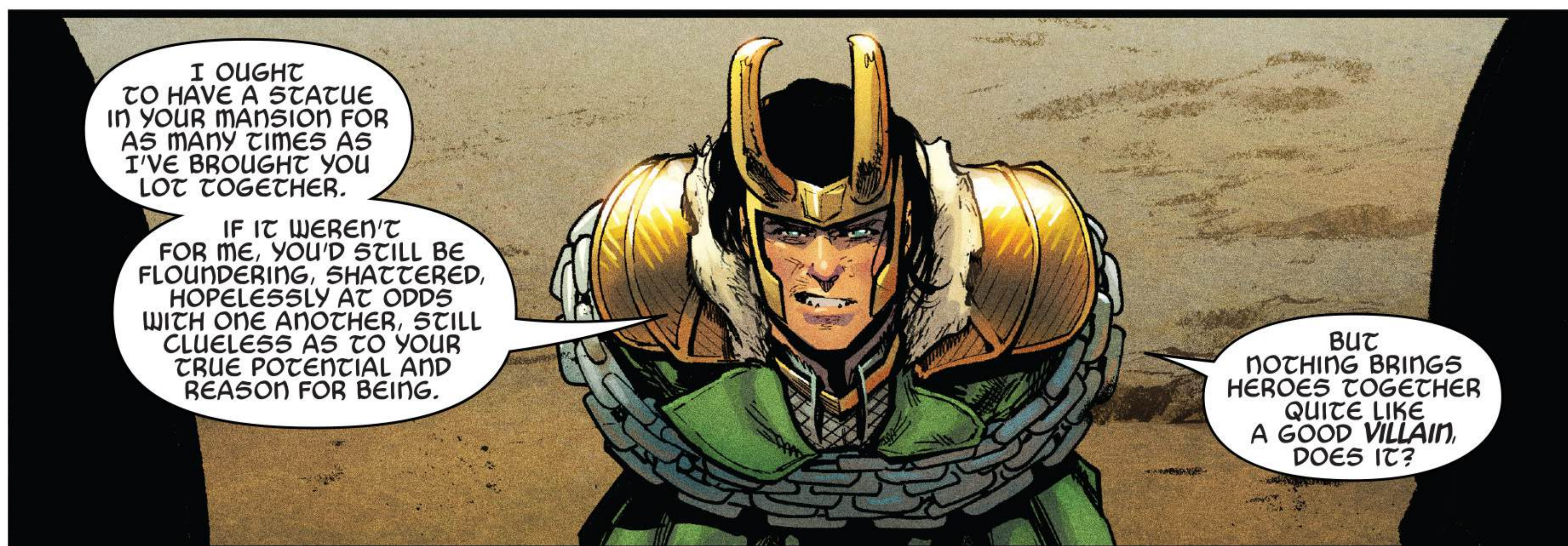
LOKI!
WHERE
IS MY ODIN-
DAMNED
BROTHER?!

HEH. OH, I'M
EASY TO FIND,
THOR. JUST FOLLOW
THE SOUND OF
UPROARIOUS
LAUGHTER.

YOU BRING
THE FINAL
HOST DOWN
UPON MIDGARD
TO ALMOST WIPE
OUT ALL OF
MANKIND, AND
THEN YOU HAVE
THE GALL TO
LAUGH?!

YOU
TRULY ARE
A MADMAN, YOU
JOTUN-SPAWNED
BASTARD!

NOW, NOW,
IS THAT ANY WAY
TO TALK TO THE GOD
WHO JUST REUNITED
THE MIGHTY
AVENGERS?



I OUGHT TO HAVE A STATUE IN YOUR MANSION FOR AS MANY TIMES AS I'VE BROUGHT YOU LOT TOGETHER.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU'D STILL BE FLOUNDERING, SHATTERED, HOPELESSLY AT ODDS WITH ONE ANOTHER, STILL CLUELESS AS TO YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL AND REASON FOR BEING.

BUT NOTHING BRINGS HEROES TOGETHER QUITE LIKE A GOOD VILLAIN, DOES IT?



I WILL BRING TOGETHER YOUR **FACE** WITH MY **HAMMER**, BROTHER!

REMEMBER THIS DAY, AVENGERS. REMEMBER THE **LESSON** OF THE FINAL HOST.

YOU PEOPLE ARE A GREAT COSMIC **INFECTION**. AND IF YOU THINK THE CELESTIALS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN SEE THAT, THEN YOU'RE EVEN BIGGER FOOLS THAN YOU WERE BEFORE.



YOU'RE BEING **WATCHED** RIGHT NOW, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IT. FROM BEYOND THE RAW VOID BETWEEN DIMENSIONS. EYES OF NIGHT AND NUCLEAR DECAY AND ALL THE COLORS OF RAGE.

AND WHEN THEY FINALLY COME HERE AND LAY YOU ALL TO RUIN IN THE TIME IT TAKES A HUMMINGBIRD TO FLUTTER ITS WINGS...EVERY TONGUE IN MIDGARD WILL GLORIOUSLY SING THEIR PRAISES FOR ALL--



THE ONLY TONGUE I'M CONCERNED WITH RIGHT NOW IS **YOURS**, PRINCE OF LIARS!

I WILL TIE IT TO THE URU BARS OF THE DUNGEON IN ASGARD, AND WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF JUSTICE THIS TI--



AAAARRGGGGHH!!!

no!



LOOKS LIKE THE CELESTIALS HAVE PLANS OF THEIR OWN FOR LOKI.

NO, WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS! MY BROTHER MUST ANSWER FOR HIS CRIMES HERE!

I DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE MUCH CHOICE IN THE MATTER, THOR.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO THEY WANT NOW?



DO THEY WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO GO WITH THEM? I VOLUNTEER **STARK**.

NO.

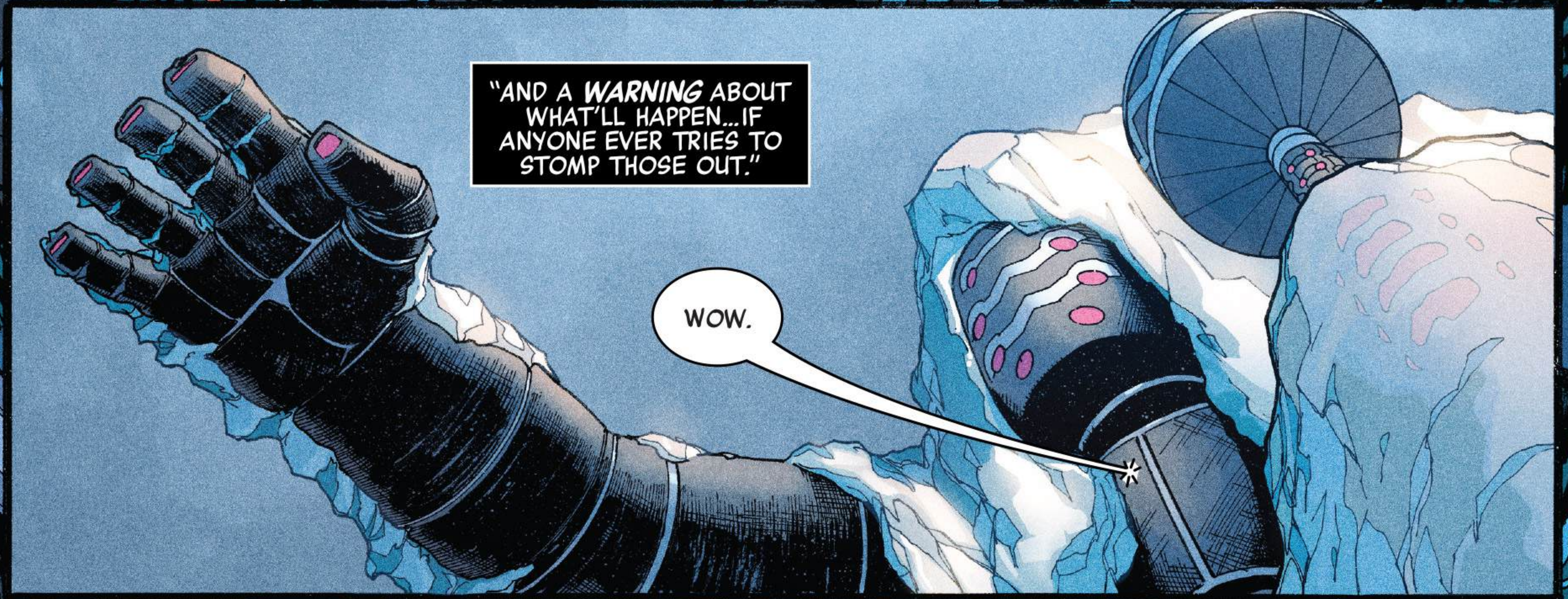


THEY WANT TO LEAVE US A GIFT.

"THE **PROGENTIOR**, THE FIRST CELESTIAL TO EVER VISIT THE EARTH. THE ONE WHOSE DEATH GAVE BIRTH TO US ALL. THEY CAN'T BRING IT BACK TO LIFE AFTER SO LONG, BUT...

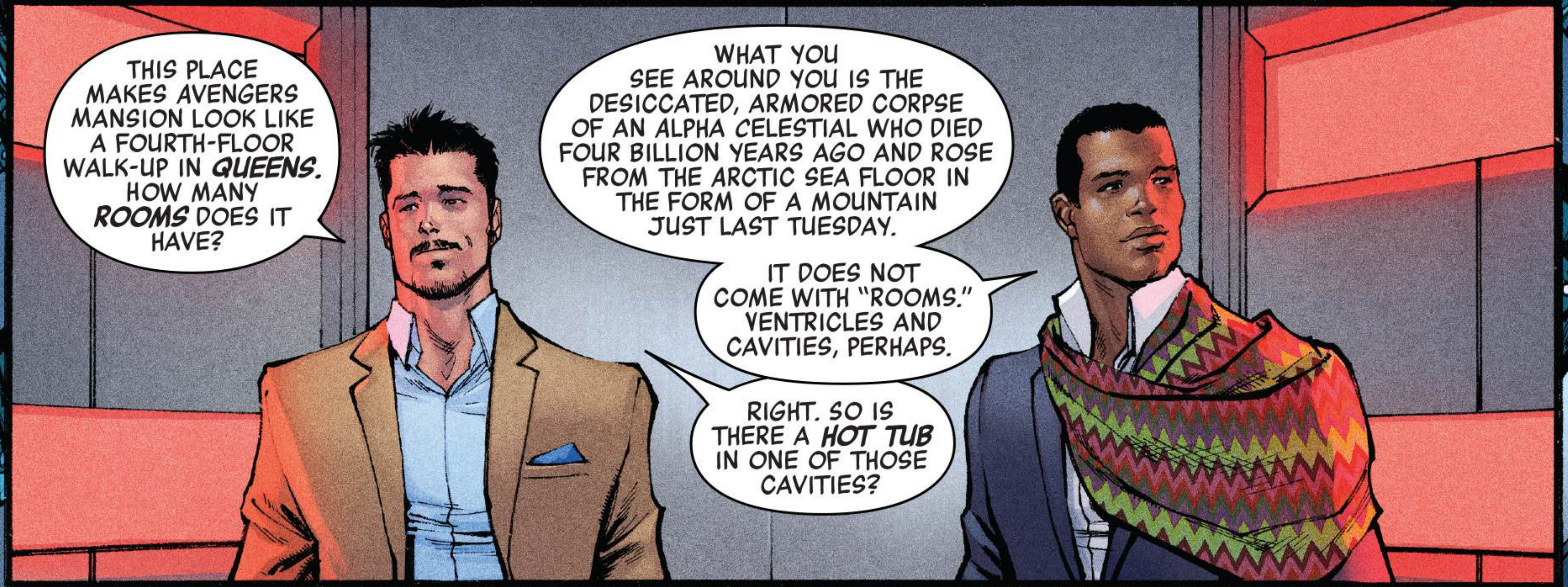
"THEY DON'T WANT IT TO BE BURIED ANYMORE. IT BELONGS IN THE SUN.

"SHINING LIKE A BEACON AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD IT HELPED FORGE A BEACON OF HOPE, AND OF THE WONDERS OF LIFE.



"AND A **WARNING** ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN...IF ANYONE EVER TRIES TO STOMP THOSE OUT."

WOW.

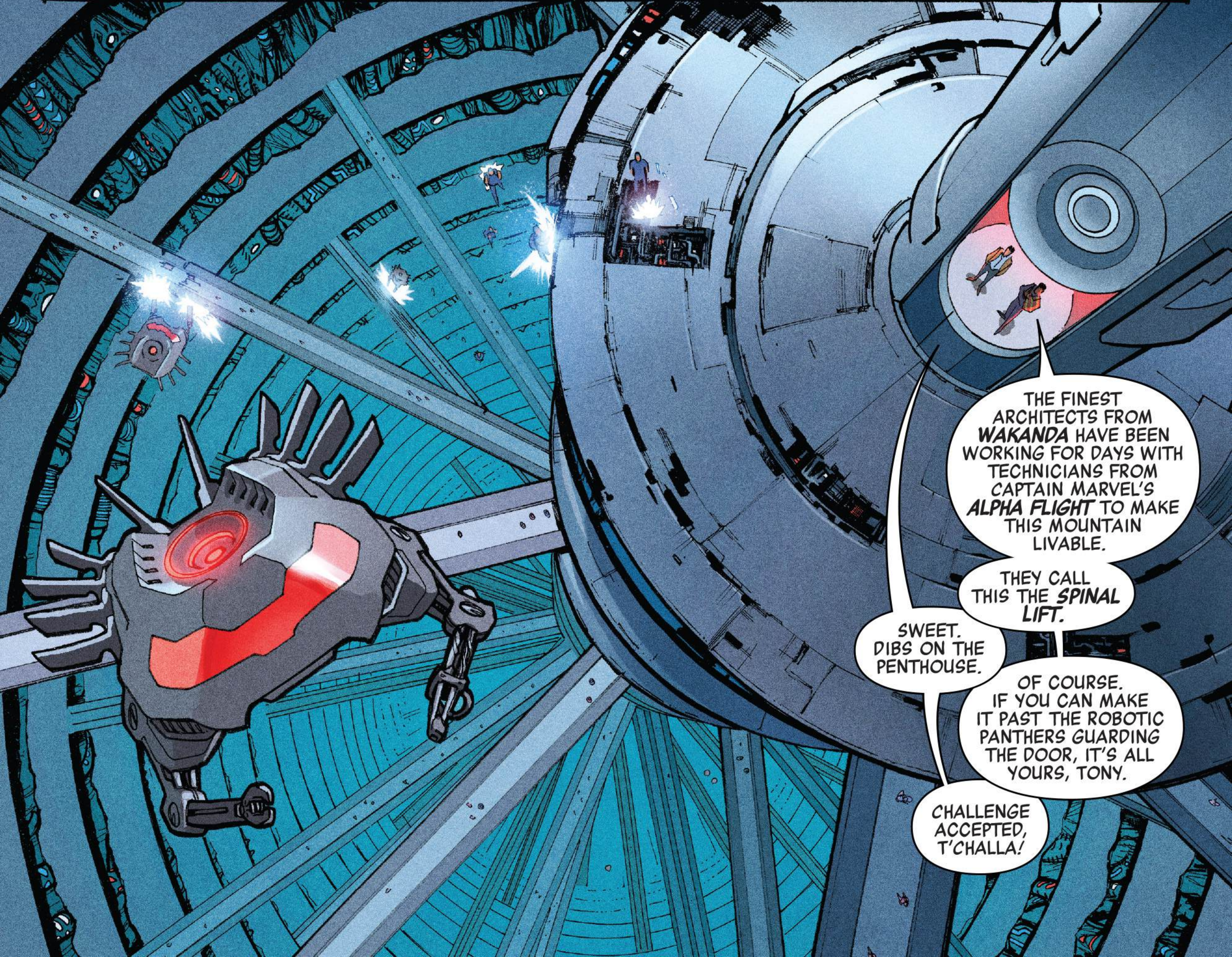


THIS PLACE MAKES AVENGERS MANSION LOOK LIKE A FOURTH-FLOOR WALK-UP IN **QUEENS**. HOW MANY **ROOMS** DOES IT HAVE?

WHAT YOU SEE AROUND YOU IS THE DESICCATED, ARMORED CORPSE OF AN ALPHA CELESTIAL WHO DIED FOUR BILLION YEARS AGO AND ROSE FROM THE ARCTIC SEA FLOOR IN THE FORM OF A MOUNTAIN JUST LAST TUESDAY.

IT DOES NOT COME WITH "ROOMS." VENTRICLES AND CAVITIES, PERHAPS.

RIGHT. SO IS THERE A **HOT TUB** IN ONE OF THOSE CAVITIES?



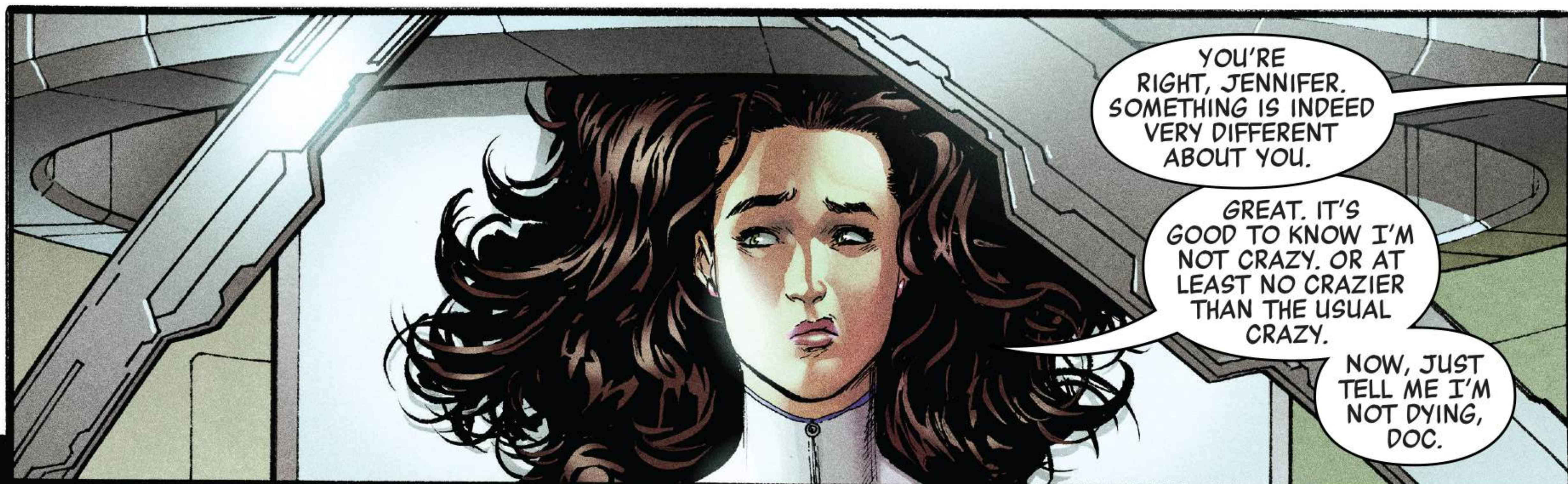
THE FINEST ARCHITECTS FROM **WAKANDA** HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR DAYS WITH TECHNICIANS FROM CAPTAIN MARVEL'S **ALPHA FLIGHT** TO MAKE THIS MOUNTAIN LIVABLE.

THEY CALL THIS THE **SPINAL LIFT**.

SWEET. DIBS ON THE PENTHOUSE.

OF COURSE. IF YOU CAN MAKE IT PAST THE ROBOTIC PANTHERS GUARDING THE DOOR, IT'S ALL YOURS, TONY.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED, T'CHALLA!



YOU'RE RIGHT, JENNIFER. SOMETHING IS INDEED VERY DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU.

GREAT. IT'S GOOD TO KNOW I'M NOT CRAZY. OR AT LEAST NO CRAZIER THAN THE USUAL CRAZY.

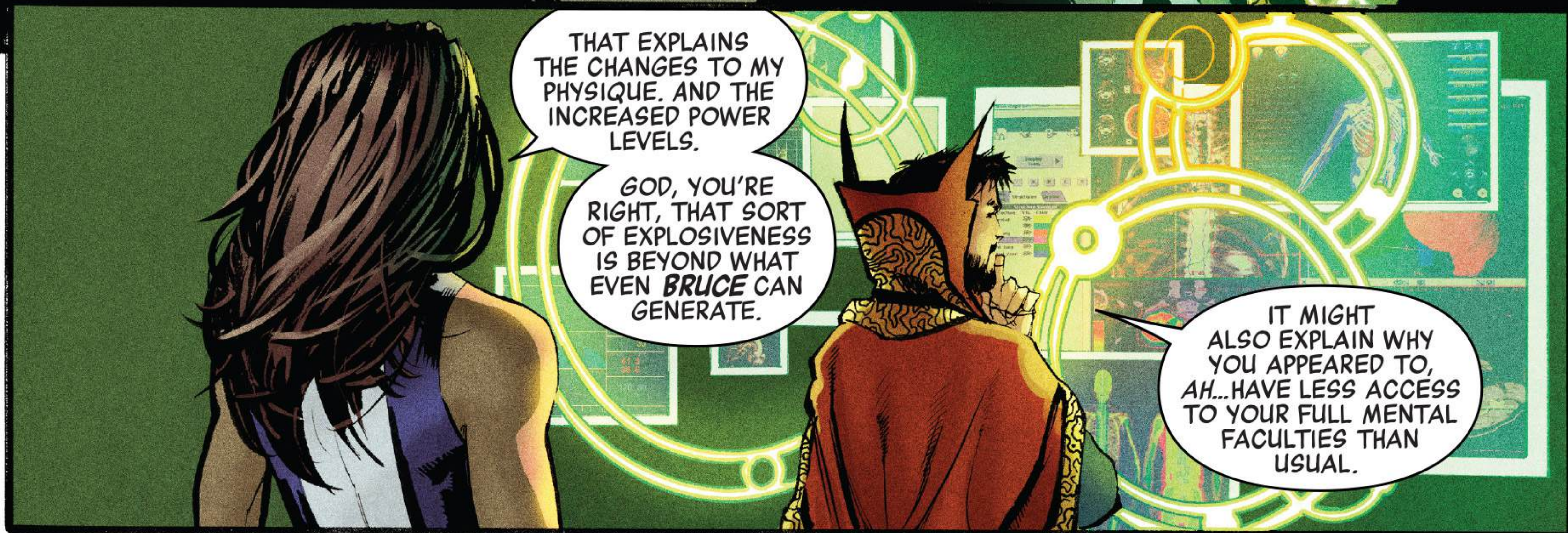
NOW, JUST TELL ME I'M NOT DYING, DOC.

I WISH IT WERE THAT SIMPLE. YOU'RE THE **HULK**. YOUR BODY IS ALREADY RIFE WITH ENOUGH **GAMMA RADIATION** TO KILL MOST PEOPLE MANY TIMES OVER.

AND SINCE YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH THE CELESTIALS, THOSE GAMMA COUNTS HAVE **SKYROCKETED**.



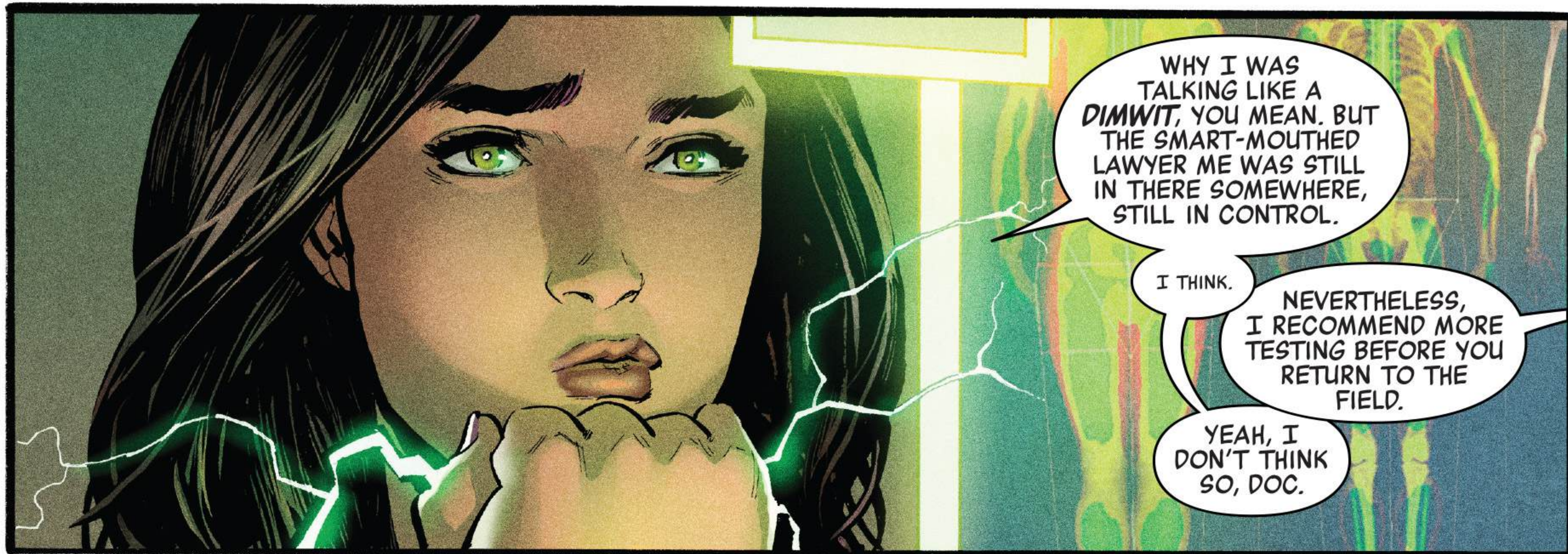
YOUR BODY IS NOW STORING MORE GAMMA ENERGY THAN EVER BEFORE. AND IT APPEARS YOU'RE SOMETIMES ABLE TO RELEASE THAT ENERGY...IN THE MOST **EXPLOSIVE** OF WAYS.



THAT EXPLAINS THE CHANGES TO MY PHYSIQUE. AND THE INCREASED POWER LEVELS.

GOD, YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT SORT OF EXPLOSIVENESS IS BEYOND WHAT EVEN **BRUCE** CAN GENERATE.

IT MIGHT ALSO EXPLAIN WHY YOU APPEARED TO, AH...HAVE LESS ACCESS TO YOUR FULL MENTAL FACULTIES THAN USUAL.



WHY I WAS TALKING LIKE A **DIMWIT**, YOU MEAN. BUT THE SMART-MOUTHED LAWYER ME WAS STILL IN THERE SOMEWHERE, STILL IN CONTROL.

I THINK.

NEVERTHELESS, I RECOMMEND MORE TESTING BEFORE YOU RETURN TO THE FIELD.

YEAH, I DON'T THINK SO, DOC.



I'VE FOUGHT TOO DAMN HARD THESE LAST COUPLE MONTHS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF MYSELF. YOU CAN DO ALL THE TESTS YOU LIKE, BUT I'M NOT GOING BACK ON THE SIDELINES.

YOU HAVE BECOME A LIVING **GAMMA BOMB**, JENNIFER. AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN NEXT YOU EXPLODE.

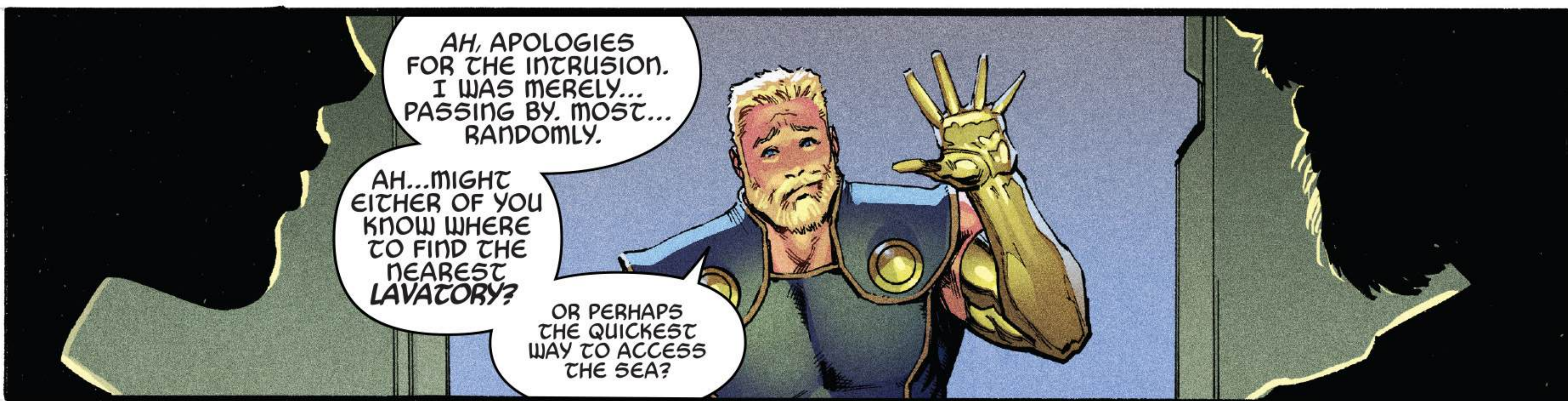
OH, I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA. BAD GUYS WILL GET SMASHED. THE WORLD WILL GET SAVED. JUST LIKE IT DID LAST TUESDAY.



THESE NEW POWERS ARE A **BLESSING**, NOT A CURSE. THE CELESTIALS NEEDED ME AT MY STRONGEST TO STOP THE FINAL HOST, AND SO WILL THE AVENGERS, NOW MORE THAN EVER.

SO YOU BETTER BELIEVE THEY'RE GONNA GET THE **BIGGEST AND BADDEST DAMN HULK** THE WORLD HAS EVER **SEEN**.

HUZZAH TO THAT, MY LADY!



AH, APOLOGIES FOR THE INTRUSION. I WAS MERELY... PASSING BY. MOST... RANDOMLY.

AH...MIGHT EITHER OF YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE NEAREST LAVATORY?

OR PERHAPS THE QUICKEST WAY TO ACCESS THE SEA?

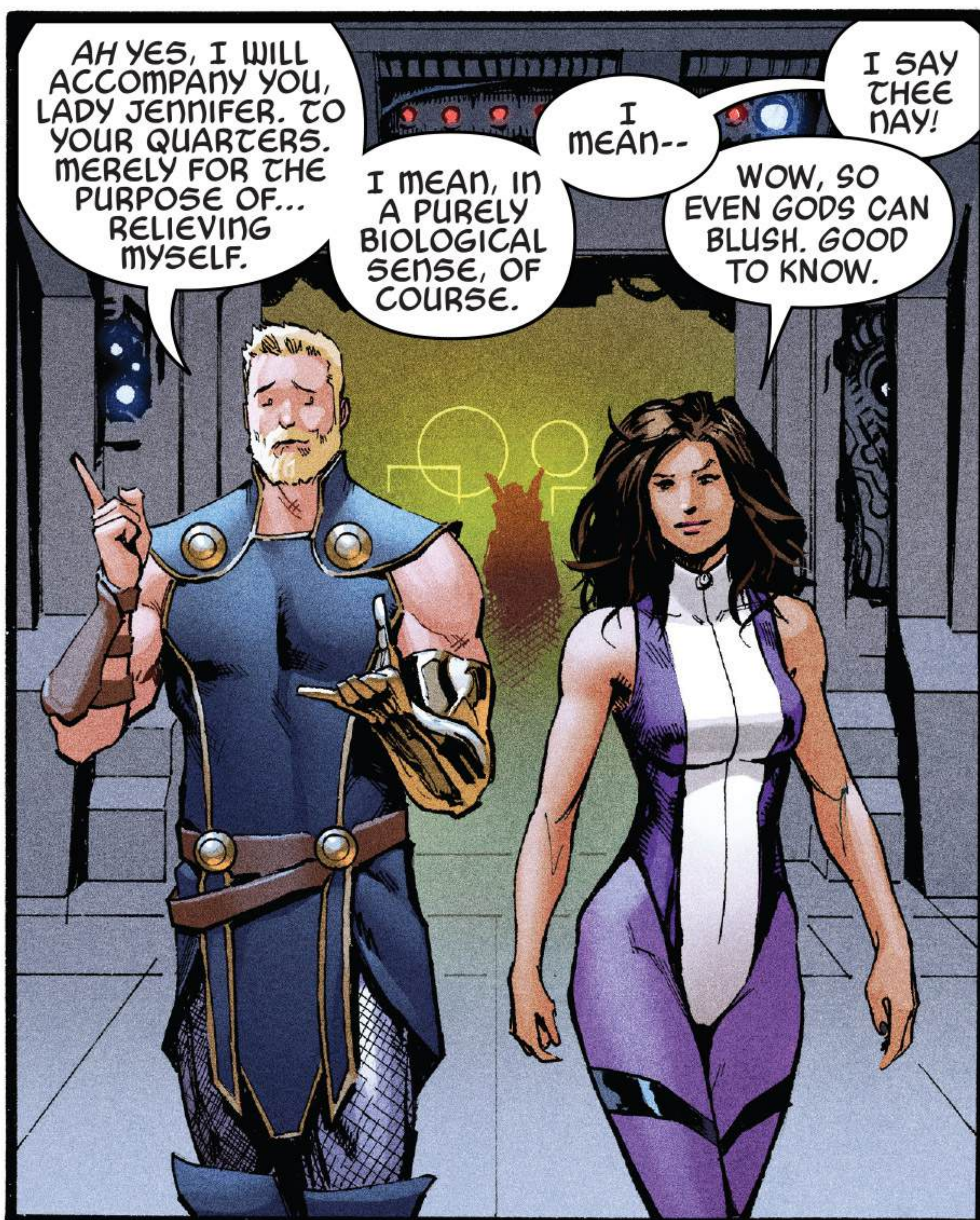


YEAH, SURE, FOLLOW ME, BIG GUY. THERE'S A BATHROOM IN MY QUARTERS.

WE WERE DONE HERE, RIGHT, DOC?

WELL...NOT EXACTLY...

YOUR... QUARTERS?



AH YES, I WILL ACCOMPANY YOU, LADY JENNIFER. TO YOUR QUARTERS. MERELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF... RELIEVING MYSELF.

I MEAN, IN A PURELY BIOLOGICAL SENSE, OF COURSE.

I MEAN--

WOW, SO EVEN GODS CAN BLUSH. GOOD TO KNOW.

I SAY THEE NAY!



SO...THOR AND THE HULK. WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE?

AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T AFFECT THEIR BATTLE-READINESS, I AM QUITE CERTAIN THAT I DO NOT WISH TO KNOW.

WELL, THAT MAKES EXACTLY ONE OF US.

PERHAPS IF YOU STICK AROUND, YOU COULD FIGURE IT OUT, STEPHEN.

I'M SORRY, T'CHALLA, BUT I HAVE PRESSING BUSINESS OF MY OWN TO ATTEND TO RIGHT NOW. THOUGH IF THE AVENGERS FIND THEMSELVES IN NEED OF A **SORCERER SUPREME**, FEEL FREE TO RING THE SANCTUM.

I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT. **THIS** IS ADAPTED FROM CELESTIAL TECHNOLOGY-- FROM THE FEW BITS OF IT WE CAN ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND.

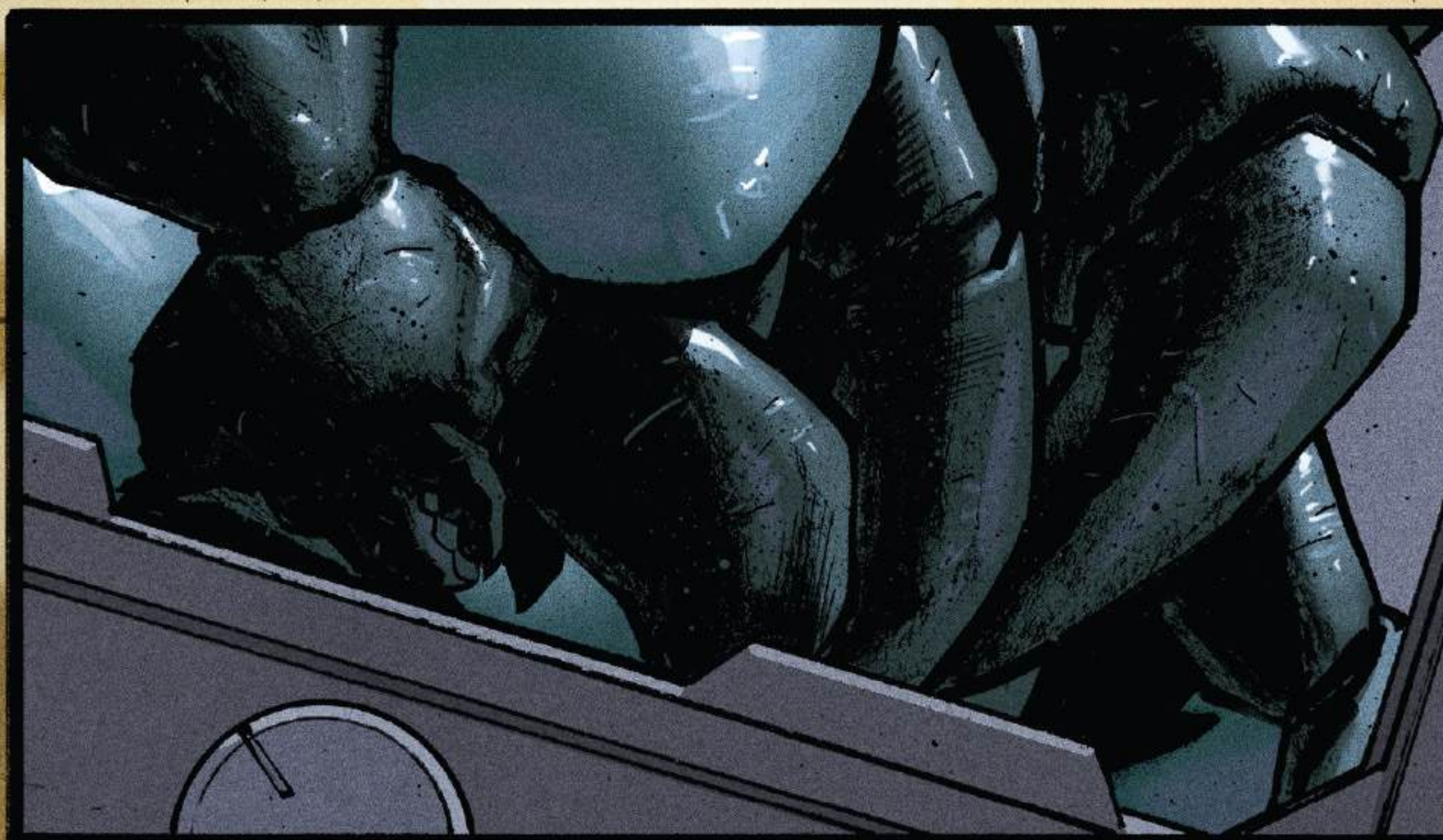
IT'S A **GLOBAL TELEPORTER** THAT CAN BE LINKED TO SPECIFIC POINTS AROUND THE PLANET. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'D LIKE TO MAKE ONE OF THOSE POINTS YOUR **SANCTUM SANCTORUM**.

ONLY IF YOU PROMISE TO SHOW UP FOR DINNER SOMETIMES. THOUGH, AH... YOU MIGHT WANT TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD. MY TASTES RUN A LITTLE...ECLECTIC.

PERHAPS THERE'S A VERY GOOD REASON FOR YOUR TASTES. DO YOU **BELIEVE** IT, STEPHEN?

BELIEVE WHAT? THAT WE'RE A GRAND COSMIC **ACCIDENT**? THAT WE'RE HERE BECAUSE A DISEASED CELESTIAL VOMITED ALL OVER OUR PRIMORDIAL SHORES?

SOUNDS ABOUT AS PLAUSIBLE AS ANYTHING ELSE. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

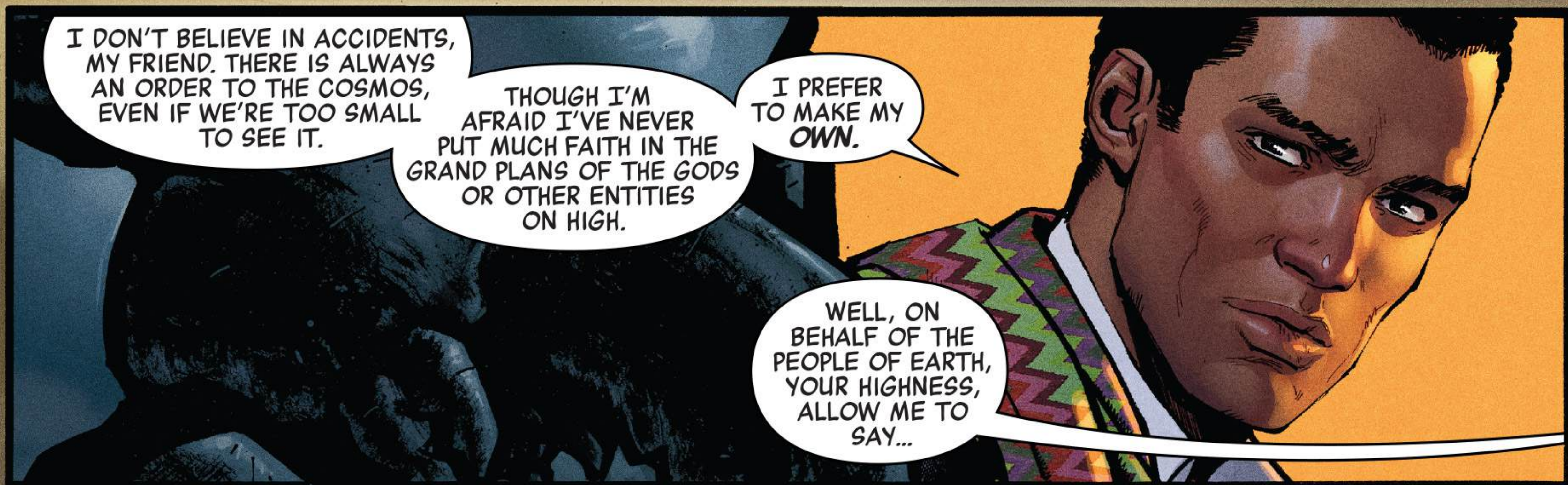


I DON'T BELIEVE IN ACCIDENTS, MY FRIEND. THERE IS ALWAYS AN ORDER TO THE COSMOS, EVEN IF WE'RE TOO SMALL TO SEE IT.

THOUGH I'M AFRAID I'VE NEVER PUT MUCH FAITH IN THE GRAND PLANS OF THE GODS OR OTHER ENTITIES ON HIGH.

I PREFER TO MAKE MY OWN.

WELL, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF EARTH, YOUR HIGHNESS, ALLOW ME TO SAY...



"... PLEASE
DON'T STOP
DOING THAT."

SO...
IF THIS IS
THE PART WHERE
YOU **APOLOGIZE**,
TONY, MAKE IT
QUICK, WILL
YA?



I'VE GOTTA
GET BACK TO
ALPHA FLIGHT.

I HAVEN'T
APOLOGIZED FOR
ANYTHING SINCE 1998.
AND I'D TAKE THAT
ONE BACK IF I
COULD.

WELL, IF YOU
THINK YOU'RE GONNA
GET AN APOLOGY FROM
ME, YOU MUST STILL BE
A LITTLE BIT **BRAIN-DEAD**.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO
PUSHED EVERYTHING SO
MUCH FURTHER THAN
IT EVER HAD TO--

I DON'T
WANT
AN APOLOGY,
CAROL.

I WANT
YOU TO
STAY.



TO STAY?
HERE, WITH THE
AVENGERS?

YES.

YOU'RE
STAYING
TOO?

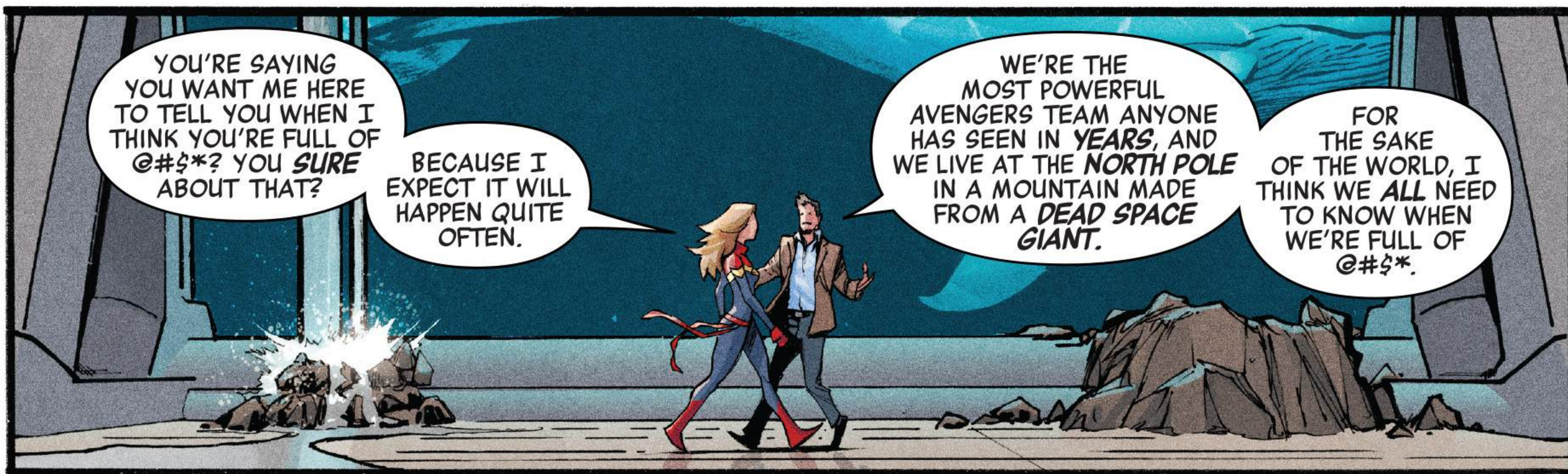
I CAN'T
SAY NO TO
CAP WHEN HE
BEGS.

YOU AND
ME ON THE
AVENGERS TOGETHER.
HOW WOULD THAT
WORK, EXACTLY?

THE
WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO.



WE BUTT HEADS. WE KEEP EACH OTHER IN LINE. WE PUNCH THINGS. WE SAVE THE WORLD.



YOU'RE SAYING YOU WANT ME HERE TO TELL YOU WHEN I THINK YOU'RE FULL OF @#&*? YOU **SURE** ABOUT THAT?

BECAUSE I EXPECT IT WILL HAPPEN QUITE OFTEN.

WE'RE THE MOST POWERFUL AVENGERS TEAM ANYONE HAS SEEN IN **YEARS**, AND WE LIVE AT THE **NORTH POLE** IN A MOUNTAIN MADE FROM A **DEAD SPACE GIANT**.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD, I THINK WE **ALL** NEED TO KNOW WHEN WE'RE FULL OF @#&*.



I WON'T BE A BACKUP DANCER FOR THE **BIG THREE**. EVERYONE GETS A VOICE.

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING. THIS ISN'T ABOUT GOING BACKWARDS. IT'S ABOUT FORGING AHEAD.

IF THAT'S REALLY THE CASE...



...THEN OKAY, YOU GOT YOURSELF A **CAPTAIN MARVEL**.

GREAT! TERRIFIC! I'M SO HAPPY THAT'S ALL SETTLED, CAROL.

NOW...CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM?

WHAT'S THAT?

THIS **SEXUAL TENSION** THAT'S CLEARLY BEEN SMOLDERING BETWEEN THE TWO OF US SINCE--



HEY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW, WE **DO** HAVE A HOT TUB.

**MEANWHILE.
ON THE OTHER
END OF THE WORLD.
THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.**

ALL
HANDS ON
HIGH ALERT!



SOMETHING
JUST RUPTURED THE
HULL OF ONE OF THE
WHALING SUBS! BE ON
THE LOOKOUT FOR
SABOTEURS!

DEFEND
THE SHIP AT
ALL COSTS!

FOR
ATLANTIS.

FOR THE
SEAS.

QUICKLY,
FIND THE
BRIDGE AND--



FISH PEOPLE
ON DECK! FIRE
AT WILL!



BAM BAM BAM BUDDA BUDDA BAM

"ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?"

WE ALL TOOK A VOTE. THE ENTIRE ROSTER. AND IT WAS UNANIMOUS.

YOU KNOW HOW RARE THAT IS, EVEN FOR JUST THE THREE OF US? WE CAN'T GET A UNANIMOUS VOTE ON WHAT WE SHOULD HAVE FOR BREAKFAST.

THE GOD OF THUNDER WILL NEVER AGAIN EAT THE TOAST OF FRANCE!

BUT, AYE, ON THIS WE ALL AGREE, MOST HEARTEDLY. THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE FOR AVENGERS CHAIRPERSON.

SOMEONE WHO HAS EARNED SUCH AN HONOR MANY TIMES OVER. CONGRATULATIONS, KING T'CHALLA.

I AM INDEED HONORED, GENTLEMEN. BUT I MUST ASK...HAVE YOU TRULY THOUGHT THROUGH THE RAMIFICATIONS OF SUCH AN APPOINTMENT?

HAVING EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE KING OF WAKANDA WILL NOT PROVE A POPULAR MOVE IN MANY CORNERS OF THE GLOBE. MOST ESPECIALLY IN THE HALLS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

WHEN HAVE WE EVER BEEN POPULAR IN THOSE HALLS?

WE NEED NEW LEADERSHIP. FOR A NEW AGE.

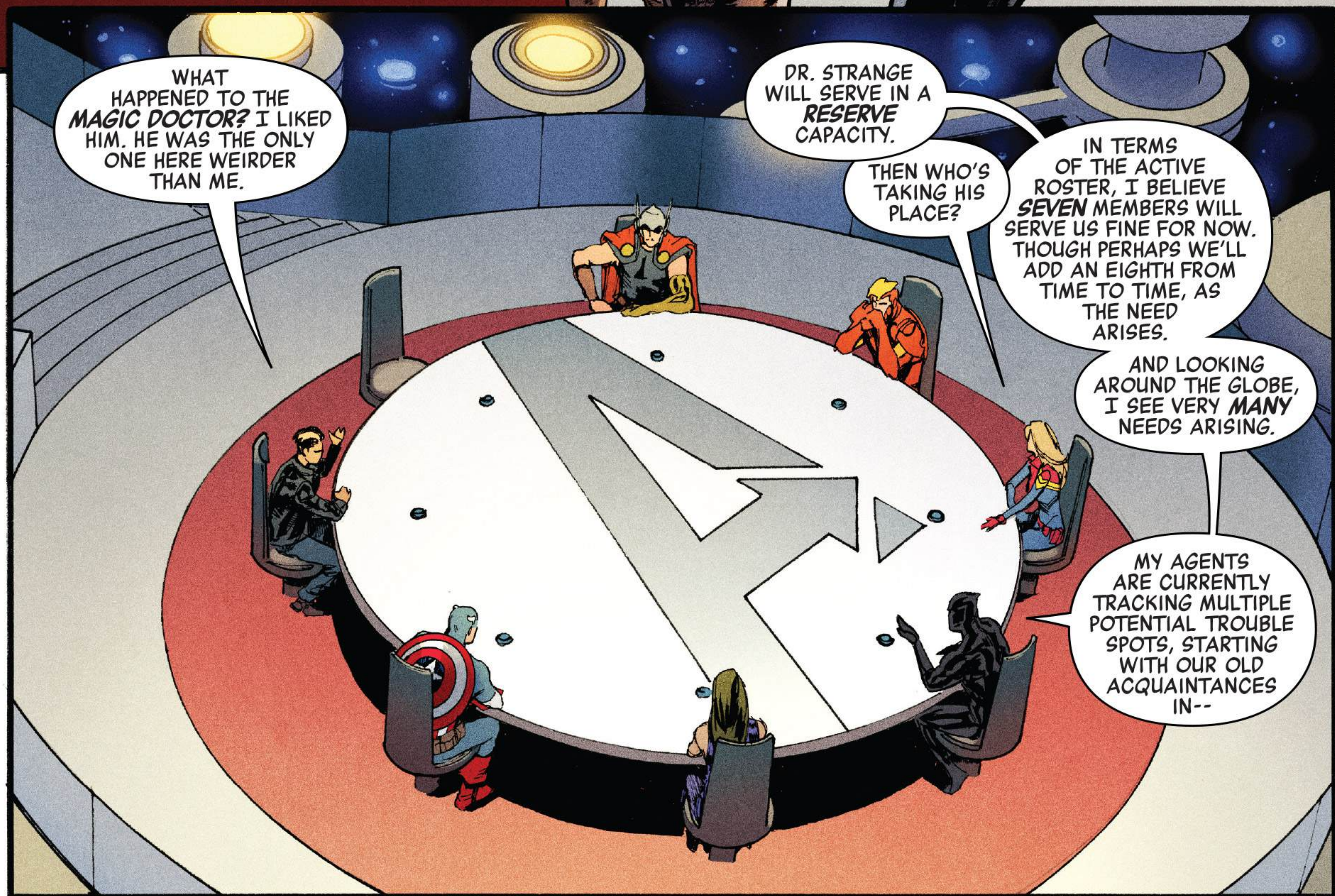
I WILL STRIVE TO BE WORTHY OF YOUR TRUST, MY FRIENDS. AND MAY THIS NEW AGE BE ONE OF GREAT PEACE.

YEAH, FAT CHANCE OF THAT, I'M AFRAID. BUT WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY, PANTHER.

THEN LET MY FIRST OFFICIAL ACT AS CHAIRPERSON BE THE INTONATION OF THE SACRED WORDS...



AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAGIC DOCTOR? I LIKED HIM. HE WAS THE ONLY ONE HERE WEIRDER THAN ME.

DR. STRANGE WILL SERVE IN A RESERVE CAPACITY.

THEN WHO'S TAKING HIS PLACE?

IN TERMS OF THE ACTIVE ROSTER, I BELIEVE SEVEN MEMBERS WILL SERVE US FINE FOR NOW. THOUGH PERHAPS WE'LL ADD AN EIGHTH FROM TIME TO TIME, AS THE NEED ARISES.

AND LOOKING AROUND THE GLOBE, I SEE VERY MANY NEEDS ARISING.

MY AGENTS ARE CURRENTLY TRACKING MULTIPLE POTENTIAL TROUBLE SPOTS, STARTING WITH OUR OLD ACQUAINTANCES IN--



WARNING, LEVEL 9 INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.

GREAT FIRST MEETING, T'CHALLA! NICE AND SHORT! CAP ALWAYS DRONED ON FOR HOURS!

THE MOUNTAIN'S MONITORING SYSTEM IS UPLOADING THE INTEL DIRECTLY TO MY SUIT. I'LL BRIEF YOU ALL EN ROUTE.

ALL RIGHT, AVENGERS, YOU HEARD THE BOSS.

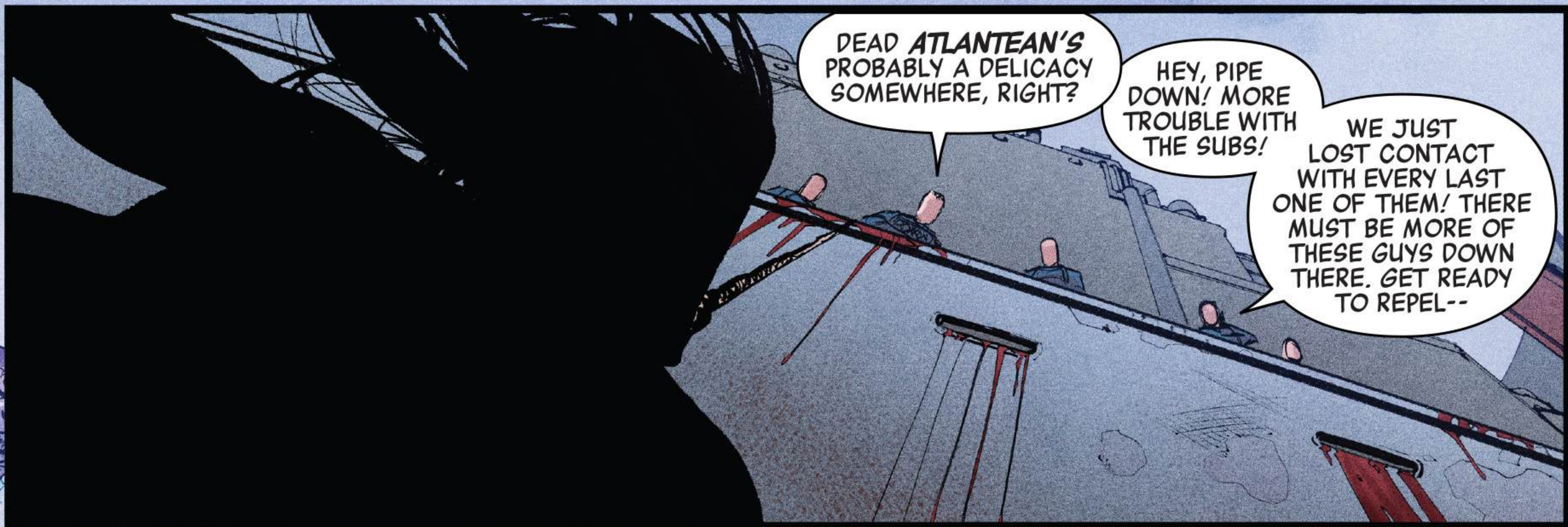


"TIME TO GO BE MIGHTY!"



HA HAA HA!
I'M NOT SURE IF
WE SHOULD CUT 'EM
LOOSE OR TAKE 'EM
HOME AND TURN 'EM
INTO CANNED
TUNA!

**THE
SOUTHERN
OCEAN.**



DEAD *ATLANTEAN'S*
PROBABLY A DELICACY
SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?

HEY, PIPE
DOWN! MORE
TROUBLE WITH
THE SUBS!

WE JUST
LOST CONTACT
WITH EVERY LAST
ONE OF THEM! THERE
MUST BE MORE OF
THESE GUYS DOWN
THERE. GET READY
TO REPEL--



WHOA!



WHAT
IN THE
HELL...

ARRRGGGH!!!

SCREAM
ALL YOU LIKE,
YOU AIR-GUZZLING
BASTARDS!



DOWN IN
THE *DEPTHS* WHERE
I'M TAKING YOU
MURDERERS...NO ONE
WILL EVER HEAR YOU
SCREAM AGAIN!

NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER.
KING OF ATLANTIS. AVENGING LORD OF THE SEVEN SEAS.

9 THE DEFENDERS OF THE DEEP



**OFF THE COAST
OF THE BAHAMAS.**



YOU
DIRT-LOVERS
THINK YOU CAN CRUISE
MY WATERS WITHOUT
PAYING THE **TOLL?**
THINK AGAIN!

BECAUSE
TIGER SHARK
IS HERE TO
COLLECT!

AND IF YOU
AIN'T GOT THE
CASH...YOU'LL
HAVE TO PAY IN
BLOOD!

YOU'RE
REALLY
INSUFFERABLE,
YOU KNOW
THAT?



FIRST VACATION I'VE TAKEN
WITH THE WIFE IN THREE
YEARS, AND GUESS WHO HAS
TO SHOW UP AND
RUIN IT?

STINGRAY!
IT'S ABOUT TIME I
SUNK YOU FOR GOOD,
YOU WEEKEND
MERMAN!

OH FOR
THE LOVE
OF...



GET OVER IT ALREADY, WILL
YA? YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE
FACT THAT I'M MARRIED TO
YOUR SISTER!

WE'LL SEE
WHAT SHE THINKS
OF YOU ONCE I'VE
TAKEN A FEW BITES
OUTTA YOUR
FACE!

YOU'RE
THE **WORST**,
TODD!

THE ANCIENT LEGENDS ARE TRUE. THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT UNDERSEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS... BEGAN ON LAND.

IT WAS THE FIRST HUMAN CIVILIZATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. THE GREATEST CIVILIZATION THE PREHISTORIC WORLD WOULD EVER KNOW.

YOU DON'T BELONG DOWN HERE! YOU'RE JUST AN AIR-BREATHER INSIDE A DIVING SUIT!

YOU WERE HUMAN ONCE TOO, TODD, UNTIL THOSE GENETIC EXPERIMENTS DROVE YOU INSANE! I CAN HELP YOU OVERCOME THIS! DIANE MISSES YOU!

RRRRGGH. I AM TIGER SHARK, SCOURGE OF THE SEAS! I WILL TEAR YOU TO PIECES LIKE SO MUCH...

...CHUM?

THIS PETTY FIGHT OF YOURS IS FINISHED.

UNTIL A GREAT CATAclysm SANK ALL OF ATLANTIS BENEATH THE WAVES.

AND THEN IT BECAME SOMETHING EVEN GREATER.

STRINGRAY. TIGER SHARK. A DAY OF RECKONING HAS COME. YOU BOTH FACE A VERY SIMPLE YET PROFOUND CHOICE.

JOIN ME.

OR LEAVE THESE OCEANS.

FOREVER.



OH, NAMOR, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE DOING THIS AGAIN. YOU KNOW THAT WHOLE "ATLANTIS ATTACKS" THING NEVER ENDS WELL FOR YOUR PEOPLE.

UNDER THE WAVES, A NEW SPECIES WAS BORN. *HOMO MERMANUS.*



SUPERIOR TO LAND-DWELLING MAN IN EVERY WAY.

LOOK, LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS, YOUR HIGHNESS, OKAY? I'M ONE OF YOUR OLDEST FRIENDS FROM THE SURFACE WORLD. I PROMISE YOU WE CAN--



STRONGER.

HGGGH!



FASTER.

GAGGH! NAMOR, DON'T--

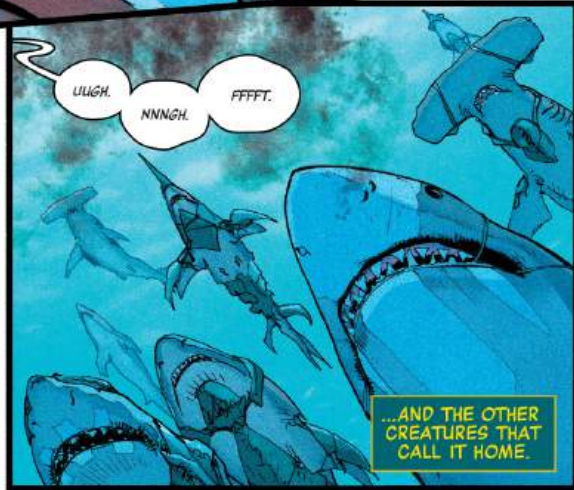


NAMOR! GUGGH!

HHHK!

RRRRHK!

AT ONE WITH THE WATER...



ULUGH.

NNNGH.

FFFT.

...AND THE OTHER CREATURES THAT CALL IT HOME.



SOME HAVE HAD THE GALL TO ASK ME OVER THE YEARS, THOUGH NEVER MORE THAN ONCE, HOW IT FEELS TO BE AN **ACCIDENT**.



ATLANTEANS WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE, THEY SAY. WE EXIST ONLY BECAUSE OF A CONVENIENT CATASTROPHE.

I SAY, IN ALL OF NATURE, ABOVE OR BENEATH THE SEAS, NOTHING IS MORE CATAclysmic THAN THE ACT OF **BIRTH**.

I GAVE YOU A CHOICE. THERE WAS ONLY ONE PROPER RESPONSE.

IN THE UTERUS OF THE NURSE SHARK, THERE IS NO PLACENTA WITH WHICH TO FEED THE FETAL SHARKS GROWING INSIDE HER. SO TO SURVIVE, THEY FEED ON ONE ANOTHER.



THE LORD OF ATLANTIS HAS NO FRIENDS FROM THE SURFACE WORLD. NOT ANYMORE.

NAMOR... PLEASE...



INSIDE A HUMAN WOMB, A FETUS'S LUNGS ARE FILLED WITH FLUID UNTIL THE BLOODY MOMENT OF ITS BIRTH. WOULD YOU ALSO CALL THIS AN ACCIDENT?

THIS MAN IS AN INVADER IN MY REALM. AND INVADERS WILL NO LONGER BE TOLERATED.



THE SINKING OF ATLANTIS WAS NO ACCIDENTAL CATASTROPHE. IT WAS A MOMENT OF BIRTH. OF EVOLUTIONARY CORRECTION.

THE EMPEROR OF THE DEEP HAS SPOKEN.

WAR SHARKS FINISH HIM.

NO!

THE BIRTH OF
THIS WORLD'S
TRUE MASTERS.

ARRRR RRGGH!!!

TIGER SHARK.
THE LORD OF THE
SEVEN SEAS HAS
ASKED YOU A
QUESTION.

AND WOULD
HEAR YOUR
REPLY.

LIKE BABY NURSE SHARKS
TEARING THEIR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS TO PIECES,
SOMETIMES THE ACT OF
BIRTH...REQUIRES SOMETHING
ELSE TO DIE. SO BE IT.

UH, I HAVE
NO IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE PLANNING,
NAMOR. BUT WHATEVER
THE HELL IT IS...YOU
MAKE A PRETTY
CONVINCING
ARGUMENT.

COUNT
ME AS A
HARD IN.

TODAY A NEW WORLD
BEGINS. BORN FROM
THE BLOOD OF THE OLD.

THEN COME,
BROTHER TIGER. THE
WAR FOR THE WORLD'S
OCEANS HAS BEGUN. BUT
WE WILL NEED MORE
TROOPS BEFORE WE'RE
READY TO FACE
OUR FOES.

RIGHT. AND
WHO WOULD
THOSE FOES BE
AGAIN?

DAYS EARLIER.
THE MID-ATLANTIC RIDGE.
2,000 FATHOMS DEEP.



AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!

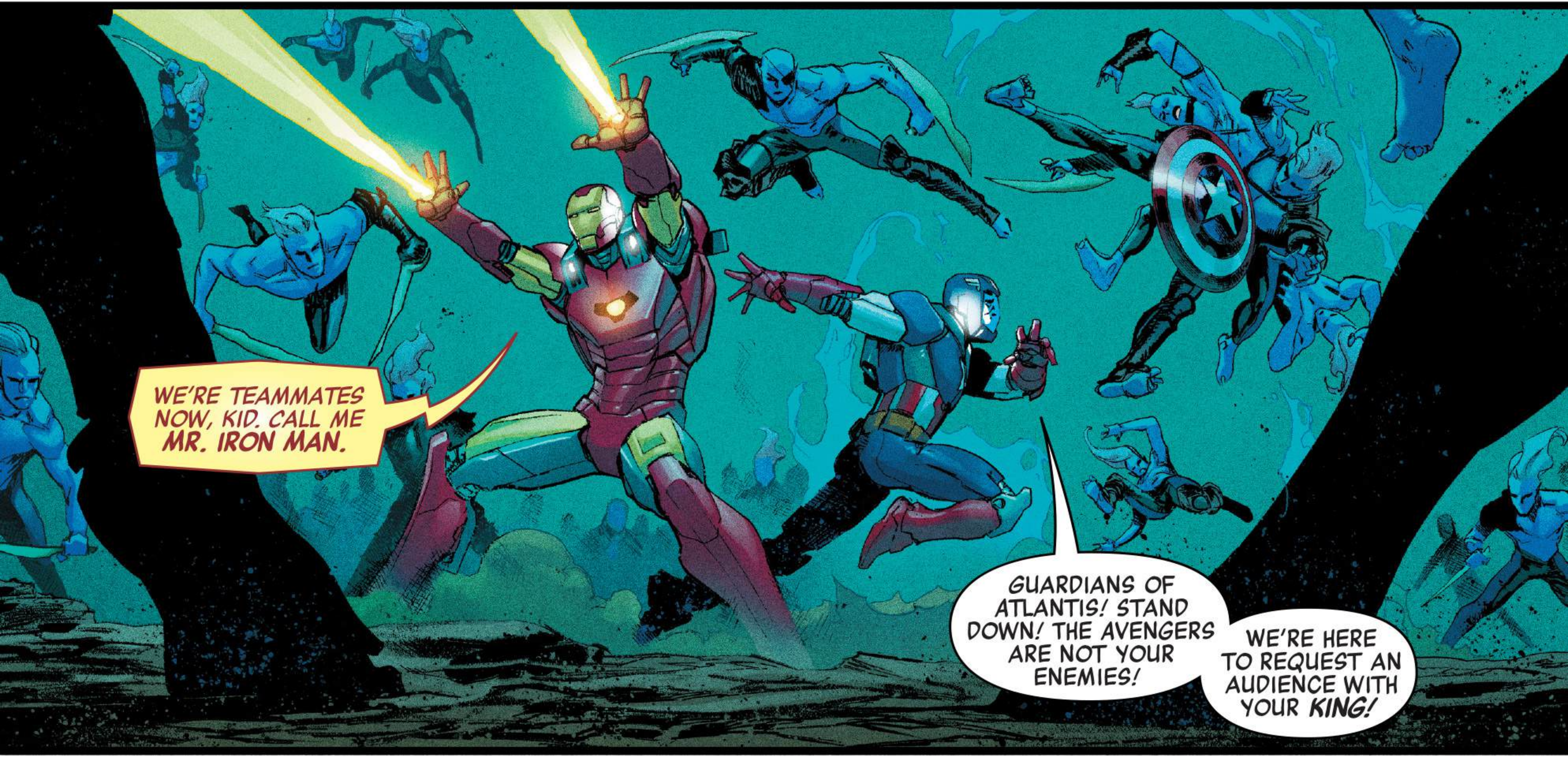
UH, CAP,
IS THIS A BAD TIME
TO MENTION THAT I'M
NOT THAT **STRONG**
A SWIMMER?

DON'T WORRY, CASPER.
THESE GUYS WILL TEAR
YOU TO PIECES LONG
BEFORE YOU EVER HAVE
THE CHANCE TO DROWN.

UM,
THANKS,
MR. STARK.



DEATH TO
THE AIRLINGS!
ALL GLORY TO
ATLANTIS!



WE'RE TEAMMATES NOW, KID. CALL ME MR. IRON MAN.

GUARDIANS OF ATLANTIS! STAND DOWN! THE AVENGERS ARE NOT YOUR ENEMIES!

WE'RE HERE TO REQUEST AN AUDIENCE WITH YOUR KING!



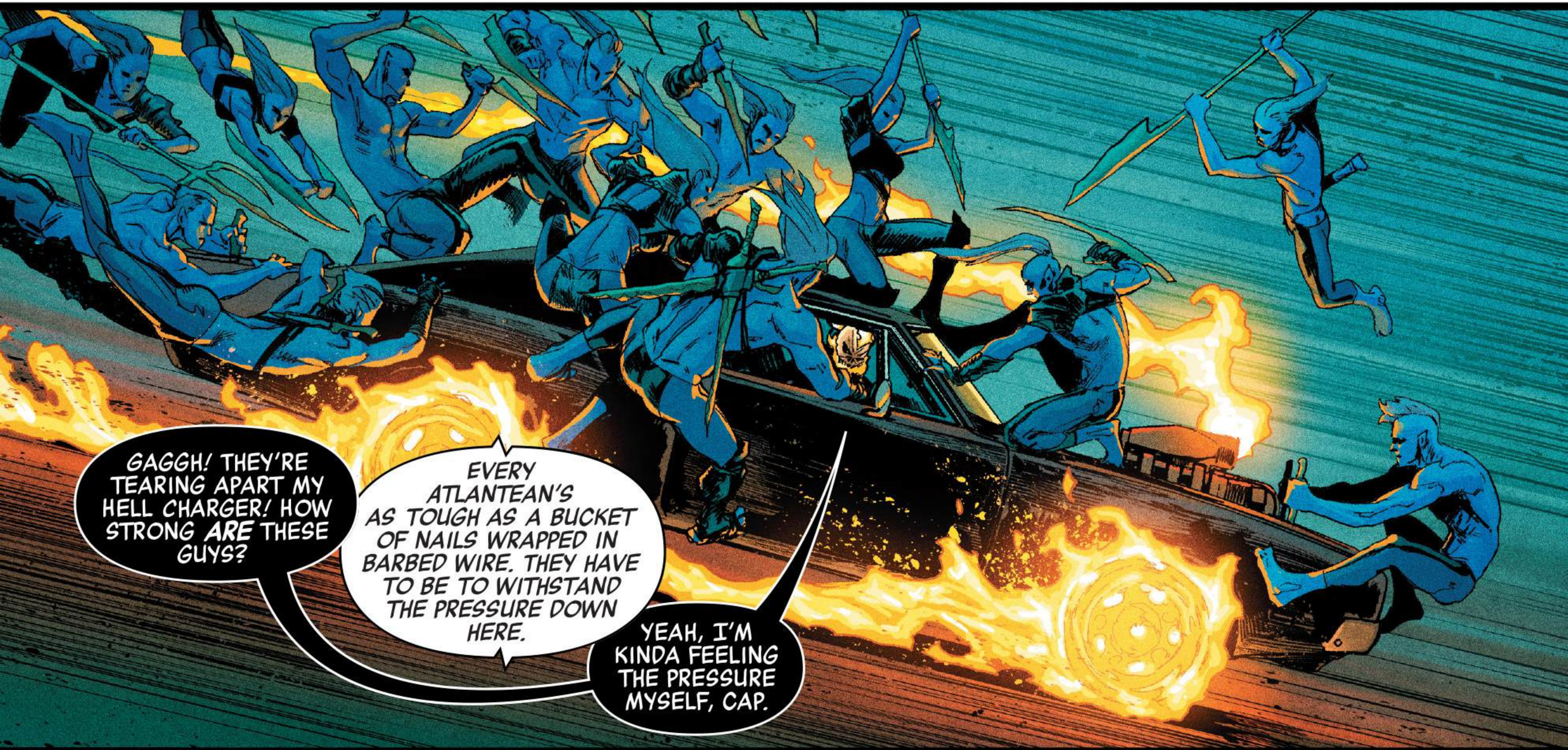
DON'T THINK THEY'RE LISTENING, STEVE.

HULK SMASH FISH PEOPLE!

KEEP IT TOGETHER, JEN. REMEMBER THE MENTAL TRAINING YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH WITH T'CHALLA.

JEN! WALTERS! SMASH!

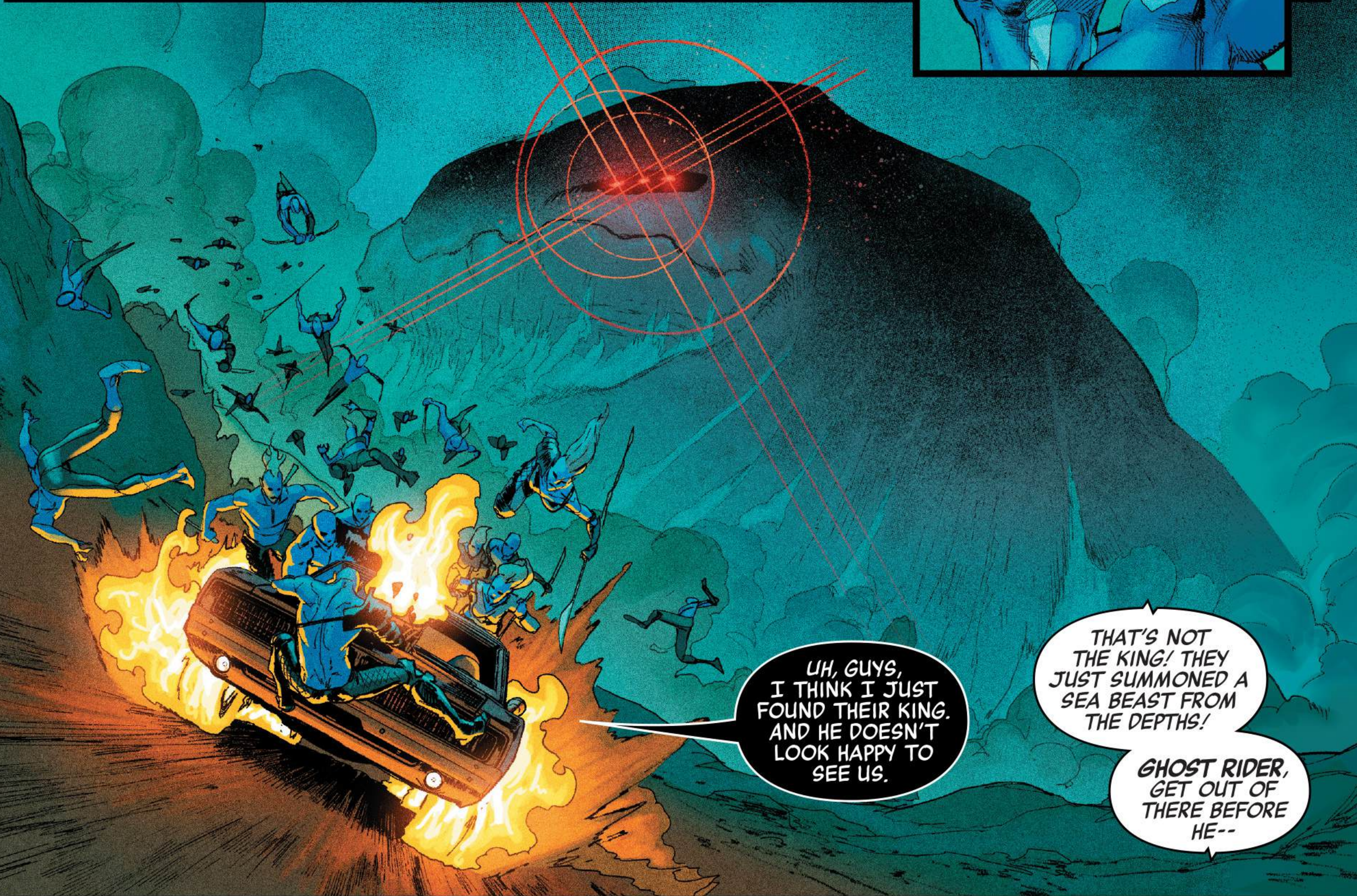
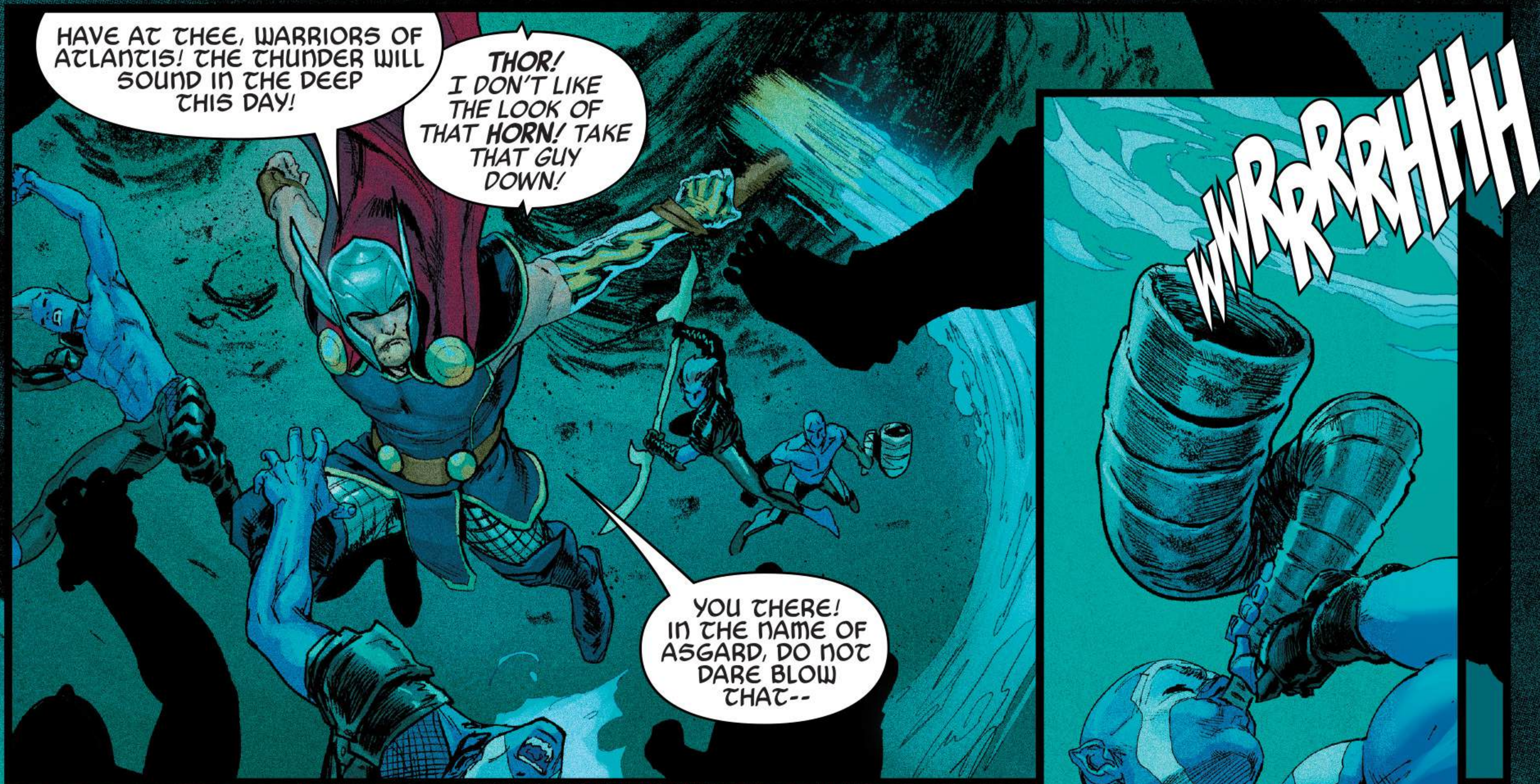
BETTER.



GAGGH! THEY'RE TEARING APART MY HELL CHARGER! HOW STRONG ARE THESE GUYS?

EVERY ATLANTIAN'S AS TOUGH AS A BUCKET OF NAILS WRAPPED IN BARBED WIRE. THEY HAVE TO BE TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE DOWN HERE.

YEAH, I'M KINDA FEELING THE PRESSURE MYSELF, CAP.





I VOW
BEFORE ALL THE
GODS, YOU WILL BE
AVENGED, RIDER
OF GHOSTS!

AVENGER
DOWN! OR...
INSIDE!

AH, HELLO?
CAN YOU GUYS
STILL HEAR
ME?



ROBBIE?
YOU'RE ALIVE IN
THERE?

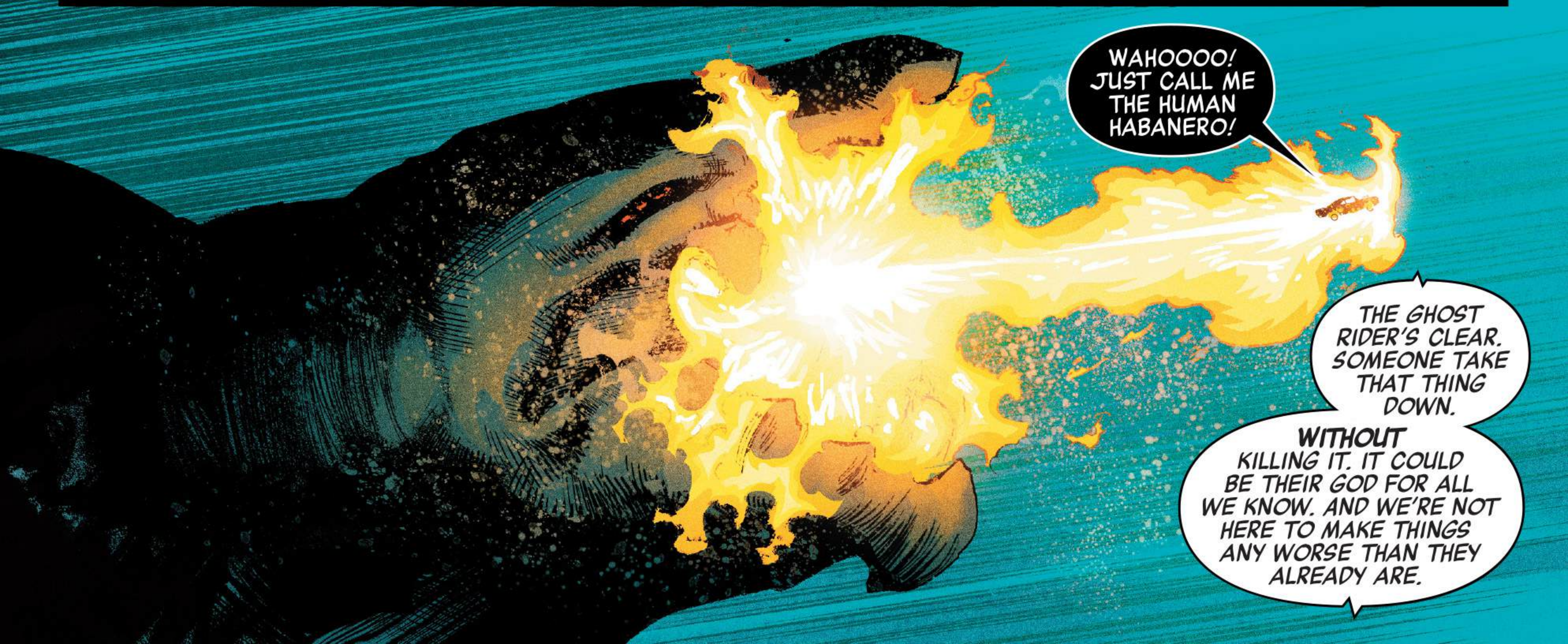
YEAH, I THINK
SO. UNLESS THE
HIGHWAY TO HELL
IS PAVED WITH
WHALE GUTS.

DON'T PANIC.
WE'LL FIND A
WAY TO GET
YOU OUT.



THAT'S OKAY,
GUYS. THINK I CAN
HANDLE THIS ONE
ON MY OWN.

LET'S SEE IF
SUPER-GROUPER
HERE LIKES HIS
FOOD ON THE
SPICY SIDE.



WAHOOOO!
JUST CALL ME
THE HUMAN
HABANERO!

THE GHOST
RIDER'S CLEAR.
SOMEONE TAKE
THAT THING
DOWN.

WITHOUT
KILLING IT. IT COULD
BE THEIR GOD FOR ALL
WE KNOW. AND WE'RE NOT
HERE TO MAKE THINGS
ANY WORSE THAN THEY
ALREADY ARE.



AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SUDDENLY HUNGRY FOR *SUSHI*?

THE GOD OF THUNDER DOES NOT EAT ANYTHING THAT COMES WRAPPED IN WEEDS OF THE SEA!

FINE, WE'LL GET YOU SOME NICE MEAT AND POTATOES. JUST BE A GOOD GOD AND PUNCH THE MONSTER!

LIKE ATLANTIS ITSELF, I AM HERE AS A RESULT OF A GREAT CATACLYSM BETWEEN THE OCEAN AND THE LAND.

THAT CATACLYSM WAS WHEN MY MOTHER MET MY FATHER.

T'CHALLA, WHAT'S YOUR STATUS? PLEASE TELL ME YOU'VE FOUND THE TARGETS.

CLOSING IN, CAPTAIN.

MY FATHER WAS A HUMAN SEA CAPTAIN. MY MOTHER, AN UNDERSEA PRINCESS.

GROWING UP BENEATH THE WAVES AS A PINK-SKINNED HALF-BREED, I WAS NOT EXACTLY WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE PURE-BLOOD ATLANTEAN CHILDREN.

GUARDS ARE DOWN. BUT I BELIEVE I JUST TRIPPED AN ALARM.

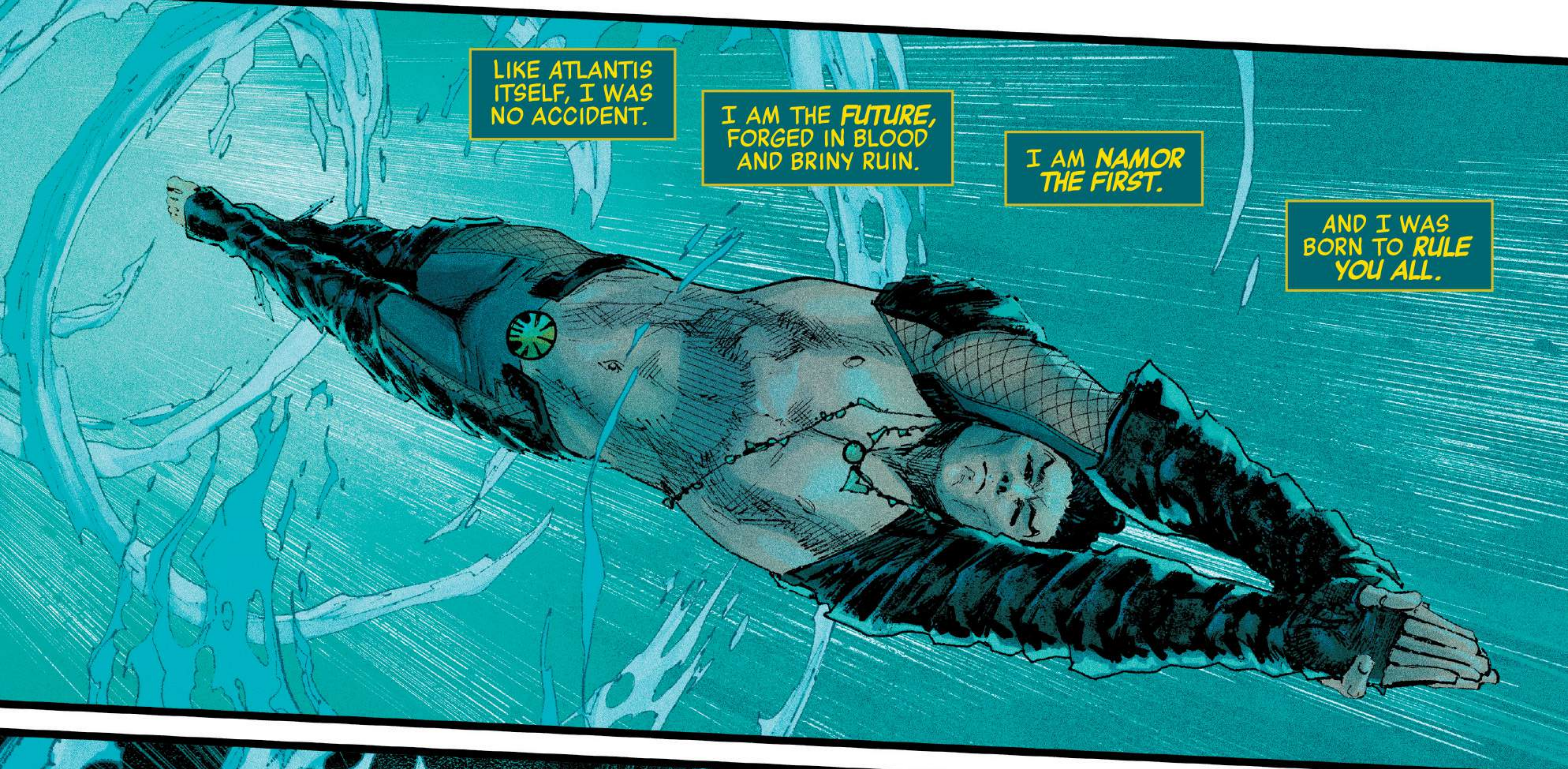
IN TIME, I TAUGHT THOSE CHILDREN TO RESPECT ME. OR, IF NOTHING ELSE, TO FEAR DISRESPECTING ME.

YOU'RE THE BLACK PANTHER. SURELY YOU CAN HACK THROUGH THEIR TECH.

PERHAPS, IF THEY *HAD* ANY. BUT INSTEAD I STEPPED ON A *STARFISH*.

I HAVE INCOMING.





LIKE ATLANTIS
ITSELF, I WAS
NO ACCIDENT.

I AM THE *FUTURE*,
FORGED IN BLOOD
AND BRINY RUIN.

I AM *NAMOR*
THE FIRST.

AND I WAS
BORN TO *RULE*
YOU ALL.



T'CHALLA!
YOU *DARE* SHOW
YOUR FACE UNDER
THE SEA? AFTER ALL
THAT WAKANDA
HAS DONE TO
MY PEOPLE!!!



WE'RE NOT
HERE FOR WAR,
NAMOR. DON'T MAKE
THIS ANY HARDER
THAN IT HAS
TO BE.

GAGGH!
WE?!

YOU
BROUGHT
AN *ARMY* TO
ATLANTIS?!

I
DID.





EVERY WENCH
UNDER THE SEA
WOULD *KILL* TO LAY
THEIR HANDS UPON
THE BARE FLESH
OF NAMOR.

ENJOY THE
PRIVILEGE YOU'VE
JUST BEEN GRANTED,
LADY MARVEL.

OH GOD,
YOU'RE SO
GROSS.



GUGGH!

AND *NEVER*
PRESUME TO
TOUCH MY PERSON
AGAIN!



FISH
KING SAY NO
TOUCH?

NEPTUNE'S
BEARD. WHAT
HAVE YOU DONE
TO THE *PRETTY*
HULK?

HULK
TOUCH!

WHUBBON

HULK
TOUCH A
LOT!

YOU BRING
A WALKING **GAMMA
BOMB** INTO MY WATERS
AND EXPECT THE EMPEROR
OF THE DEEP TO BOW
TO YOUR DEMANDS?!

YOU KNOW
NOTHING OF
ATLANTIS, AVENGERS!
AND EVEN LESS OF
NAMOR, THE
SUB--

WHUNK

OH MAN,
DID I JUST **HIT**
SOMEBODY?

PLEASE
TELL ME THAT
WAS THE BAD
GUY.

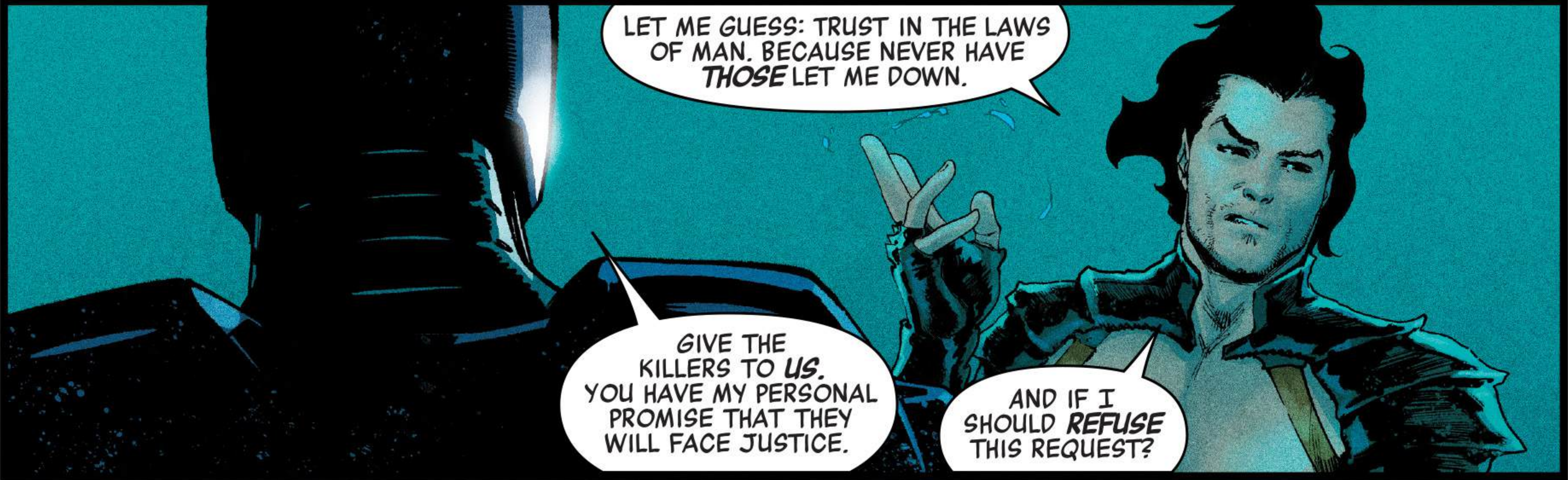
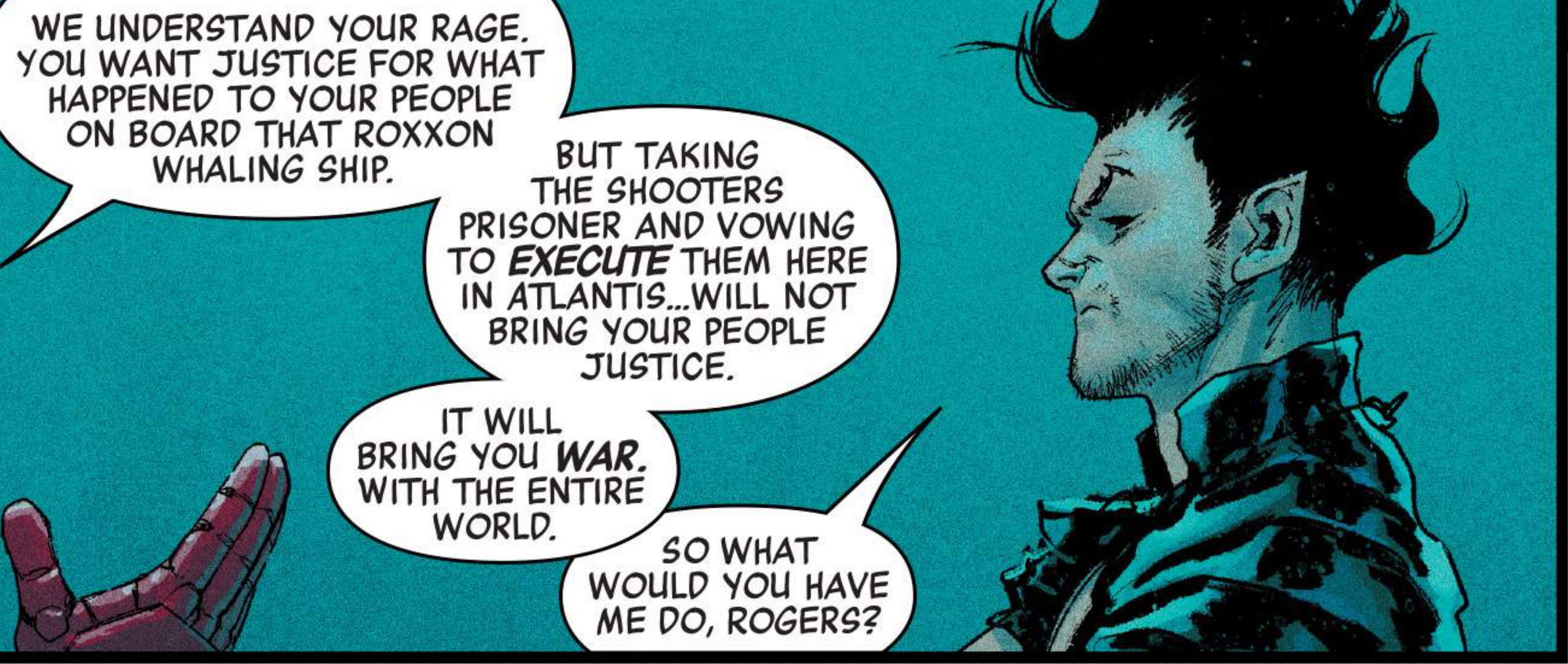
RRRGGGH!!!
THE SUB-MARINER
WILL NEVER FALL!

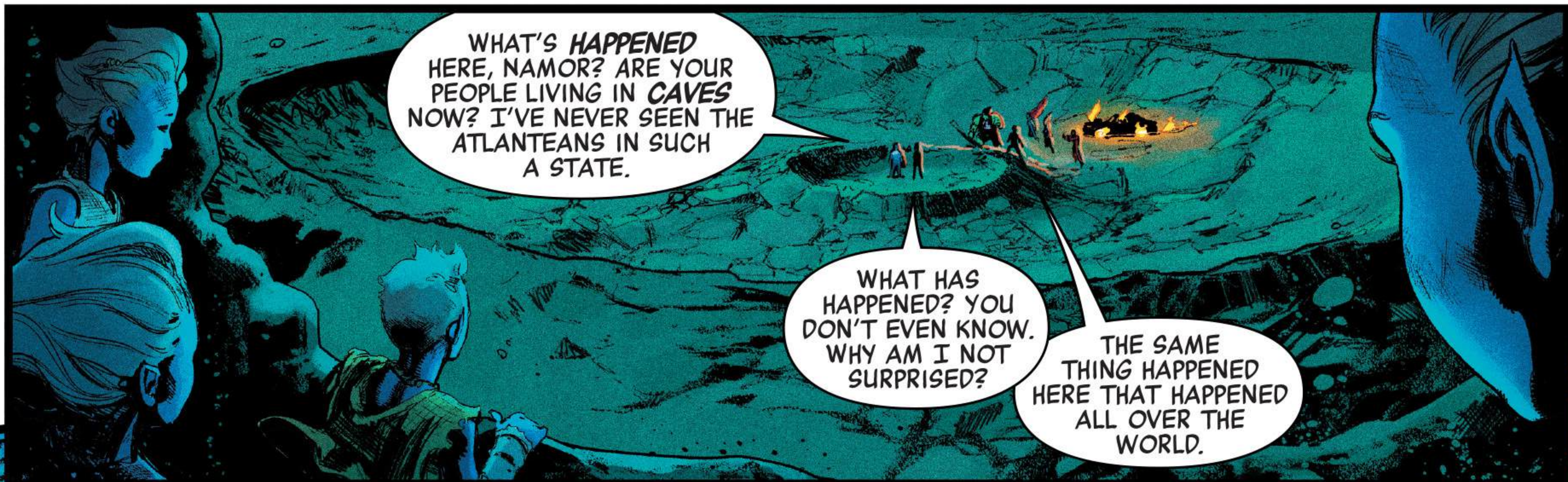
**IMPERIUS
REX, YOU AIR-
BREATHING
BASTARDS!**

NAMOR!

STAND
DOWN.

OR THE
NEXT AVENGER
YOU FACE WILL
BE **ME.**



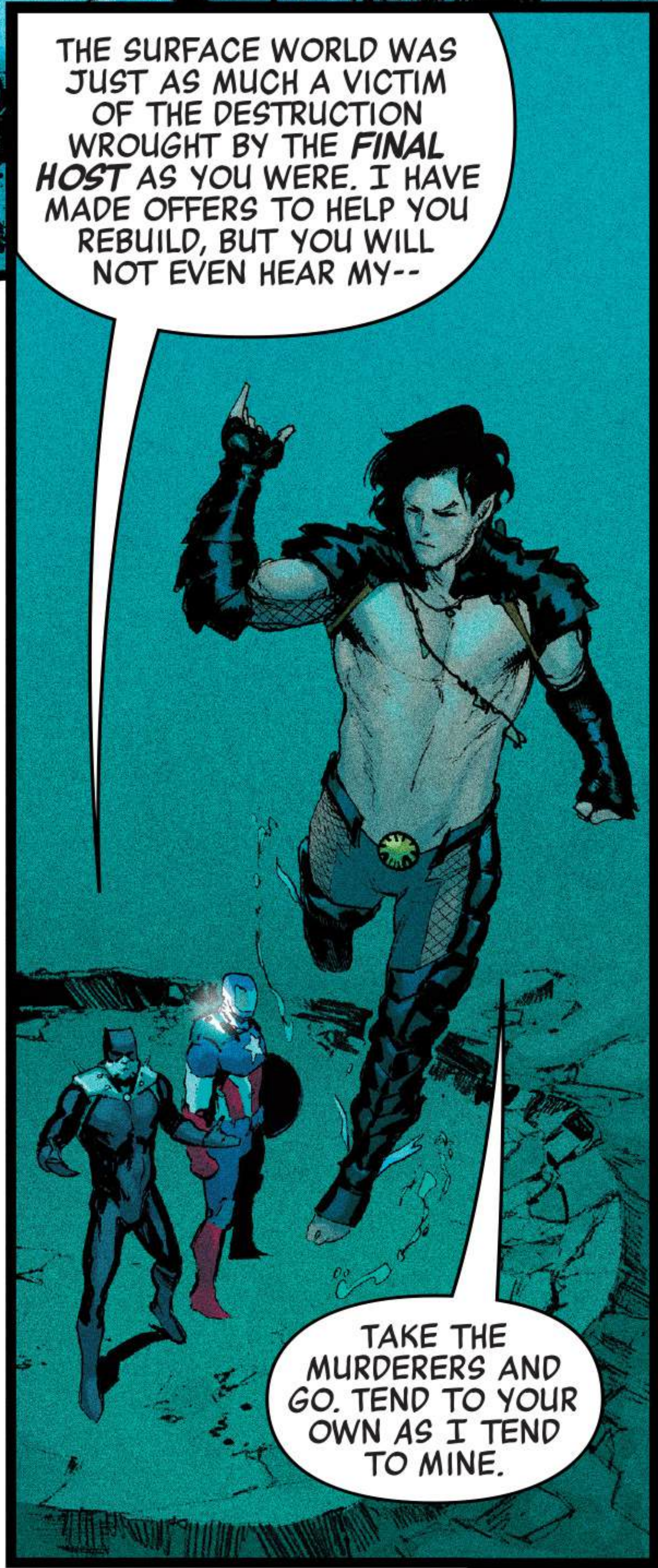


WHAT'S **HAPPENED** HERE, NAMOR? ARE YOUR PEOPLE LIVING IN **CAVES** NOW? I'VE NEVER SEEN THE ATLANTEANS IN SUCH A STATE.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW. WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

THE SAME THING HAPPENED HERE THAT HAPPENED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

"DEATH FELL FROM THE SKY."



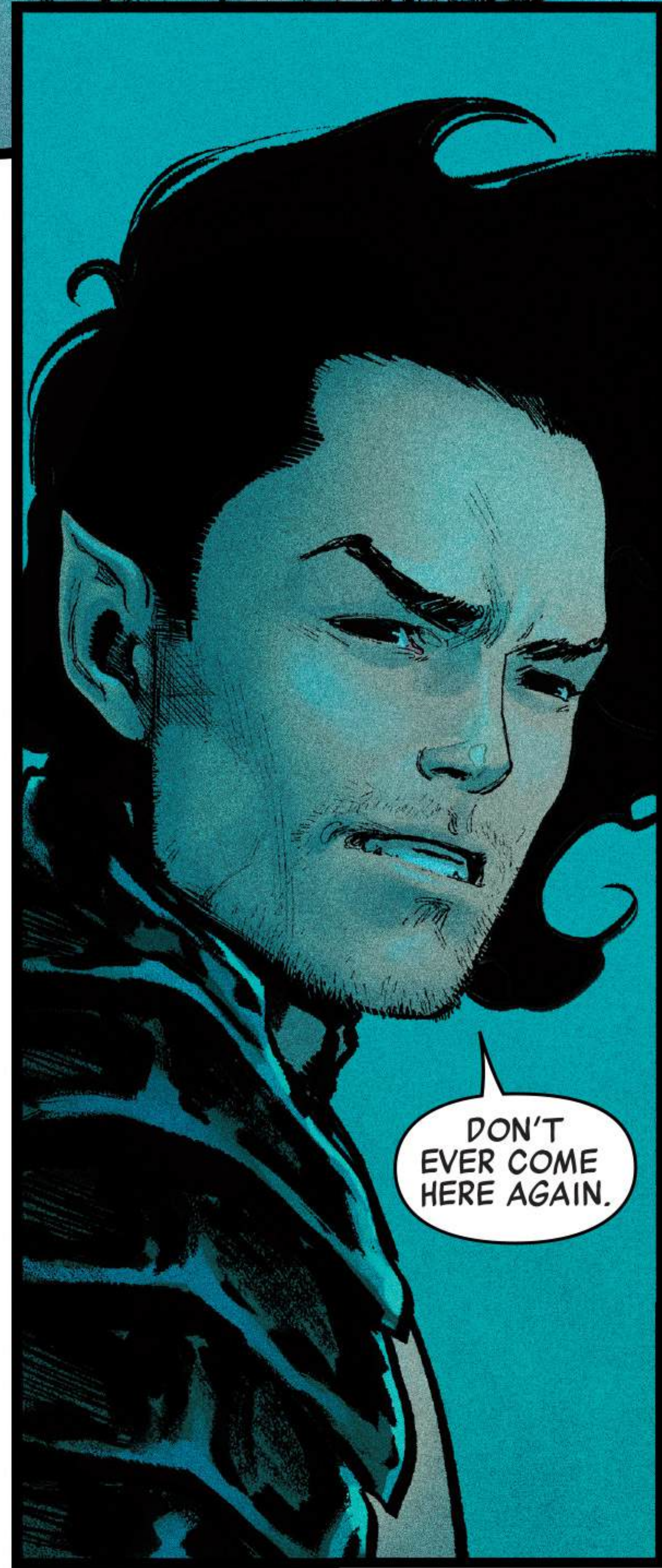
THE SURFACE WORLD WAS JUST AS MUCH A VICTIM OF THE DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY THE **FINAL HOST** AS YOU WERE. I HAVE MADE OFFERS TO HELP YOU REBUILD, BUT YOU WILL NOT EVEN HEAR MY--

TAKE THE MURDERERS AND GO. TEND TO YOUR OWN AS I TEND TO MINE.



NAMOR. I KNOW YOUR PRIDE. BUT WE'RE THE AVENGERS. WE'RE HERE TO FIGHT FOR **EVERYONE**. LET US HELP YOU TO--

ROGERS.



DON'T EVER COME HERE AGAIN.

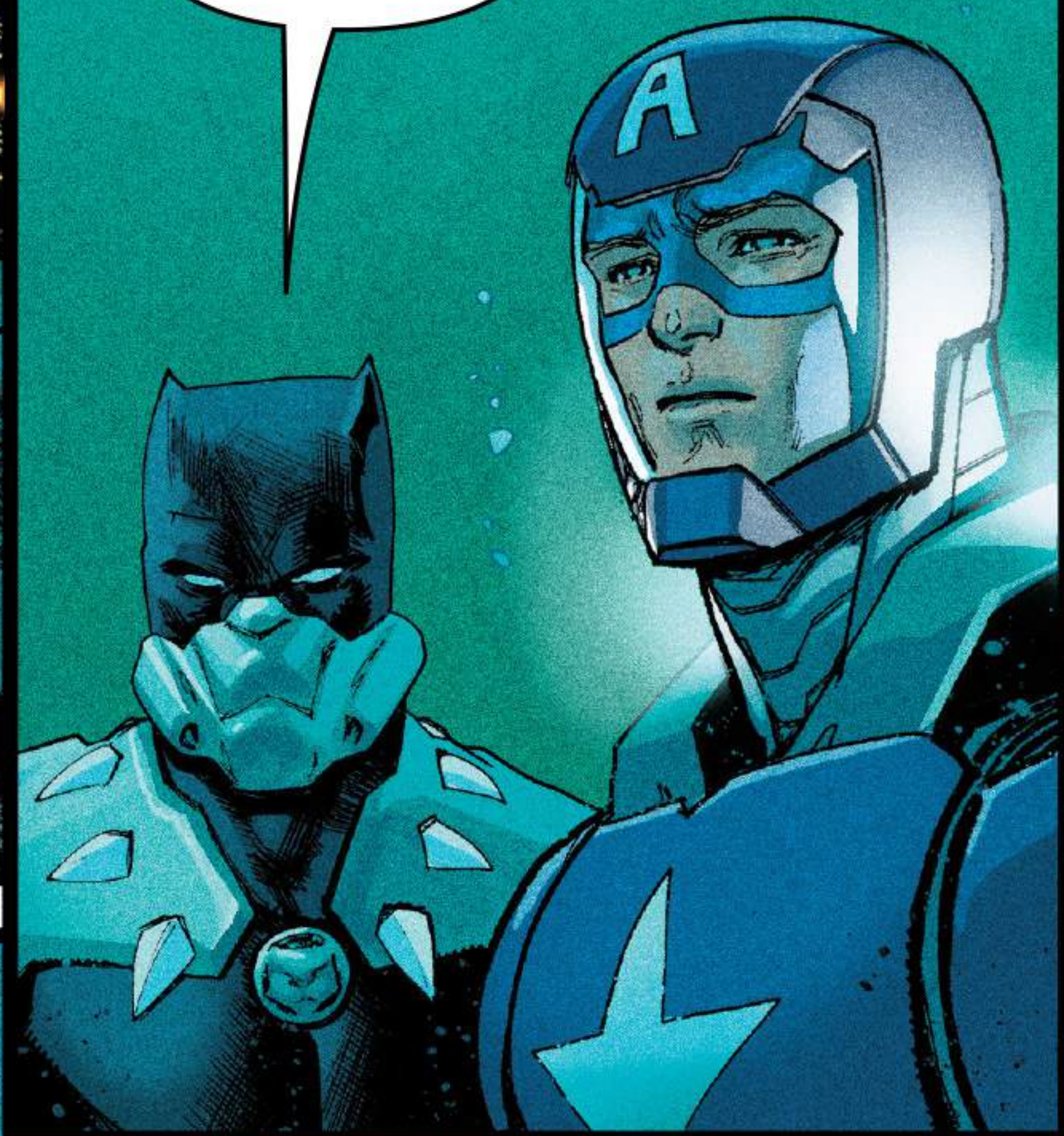


THIS
COULD'VE
DEFINITELY GONE
WORSE.

I AM NOT
CONVINCED IT
STILL WON'T.

WHEN WE
TURN THESE MEN
OVER TO THE
AUTHORITIES, I WILL
HAVE THOR AND CAROL
ESCORT THEIR SHIP
BACK TO THE SHORE,
JUST IN CASE.

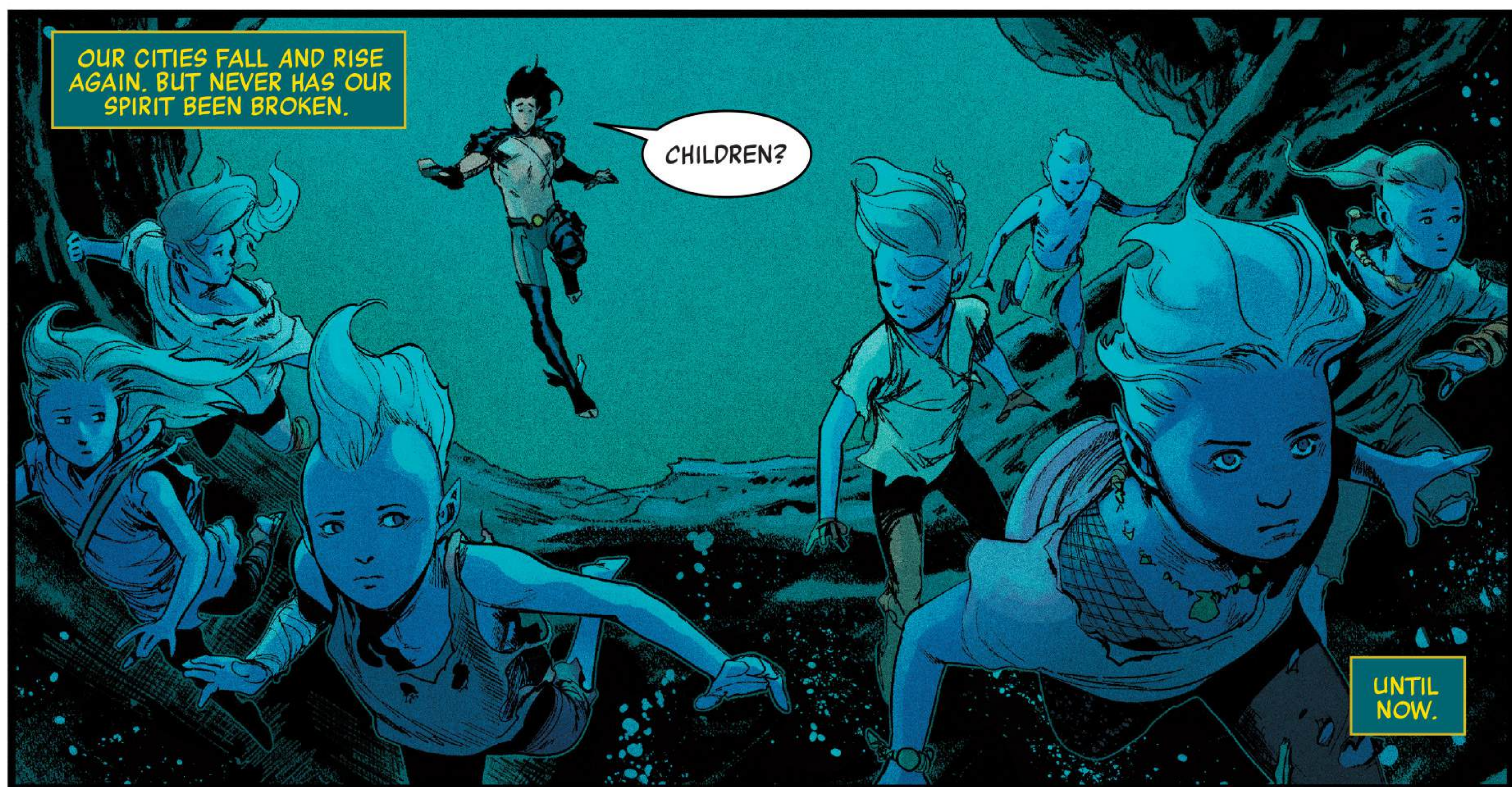
AND
WHEREVER
THEY ARE HELD
UNTIL TRIAL...



"...WE SHOULD
RECOMMEND
IT BE FAR FROM
THE OCEAN."

THE CATACLYSM
THAT SANK ATLANTIS
WAS NOT A ONE-TIME
ORDEAL. UPHEAVAL HAS
ALWAYS BEEN A WAY
OF LIFE FOR US.

CHILDREN.
COME WITH ME TO
THE ROYAL PALACE.
YOUR KING WILL SEE
THAT YOU'RE FED
AND...



OUR CITIES FALL AND RISE
AGAIN. BUT NEVER HAS OUR
SPIRIT BEEN BROKEN.

CHILDREN?

UNTIL
NOW.

NOW.
THE PACIFIC DEPTHS.

YESTERDAY, ON THE WESTERN
COAST OF THE UNITED STATES,
A GROUP OF ATLANTIAN
CHILDREN EMERGED FROM THE
WAVES, HOLDING HANDS...AND
WALKED ONTO A BEACH.

THE CHILDREN WERE STARVING.
FRIGHTENED. TIRED OF LIVING IN
SQUALOR BENEATH THE SEA.

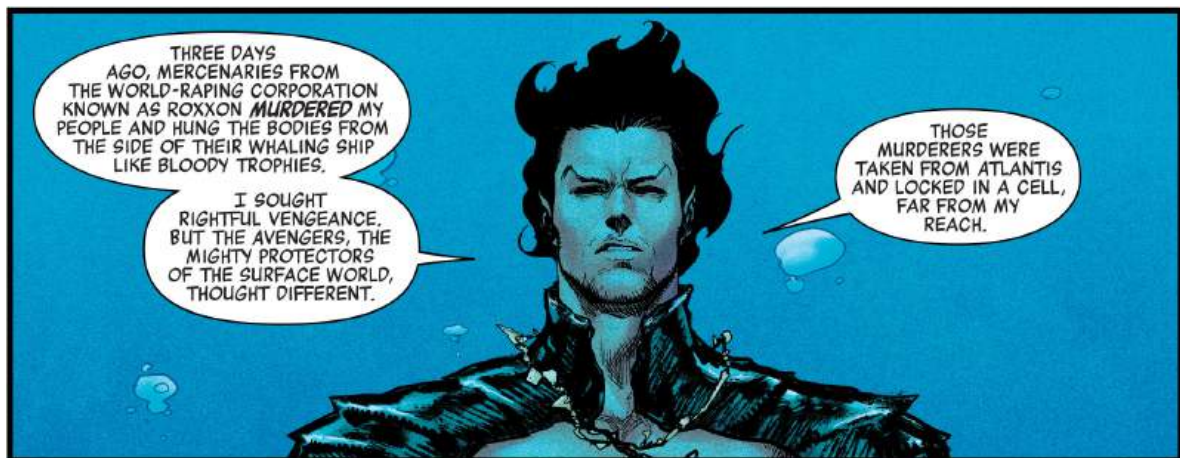
TIRED OF LIVING
AMIDST THE
WORLD'S GREAT
DUMPING GROUND.

BECAUSE ATLANTIS
HAD FAILED THEM...
BECAUSE I HAD FAILED
THEM...THEY SOUGHT
SALVATION IN THE
SURFACE WORLD. THEY
THOUGHT THE AVENGERS
COULD SAVE THEM.

BUT THOSE CHILDREN
DIED IN THE SAND,
CHOKING ON THE POISON
AIR. WHILE THE HUMANS
STOOD BY AND WATCHED.
AND LAUGHED AT THE
FUNNY, FLOPPING FISH.

I TORE A NEW TRENCH
IN THE PACIFIC FLOOR TO
VENT MY RAGE. AND THEN
I DECIDED ON A PLAN.

YOU ARE HERE...
BECAUSE WAR HAS
BEEN DECLARED.



THREE DAYS
AGO, MERCENARIES FROM
THE WORLD-RAPING CORPORATION
KNOWN AS ROXXON **MURDERED** MY
PEOPLE AND HUNG THE BODIES FROM
THE SIDE OF THEIR WHALING SHIP
LIKE BLOODY TROPHIES.

I SOUGHT
RIGHTFUL VENGEANCE.
BUT THE AVENGERS, THE
MIGHTY PROTECTORS
OF THE SURFACE WORLD,
THOUGHT DIFFERENT.

THOSE
MURDERERS WERE
TAKEN FROM ATLANTIS
AND LOCKED IN A CELL,
FAR FROM MY
REACH.



"OR SO THEY
BELIEVED.

NEW MEXICO.

FLOODING IN
B BLOCK!

HOW THE
HELL IS THAT
POSSIBLE?!

GET THOSE
PRISONERS OUT
OF THERE!

U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons
**RED SANDS
FEDERAL
PENITENTIARY**



"THOSE MEN ARE DEAD NOW. CHOKED
ON THE POLLUTED SEAWATER THAT
SPEWED FROM THEIR OWN TOILETS.

"A FITTING
END, I'D SAY."



YET THIS
IS NOT AN
ENDING. THIS
HOLY WAR
HAS JUST
BEGUN.

AND WE
WILL NOT
MISSTEP AS WE
HAVE IN THE PAST.
NO MORE ARMIES
HITTING THE
BEACH. NO MORE
INVASIONS.

LET THE
AIR-BREATHERS
HAVE THEIR MOUNDS
OF DIRT AND BLACKENED
SKIES. WE FIGHT FOR THE
SEAS, AND THOSE
WHO CALL THEM
HOME.



THE
SURFACE
WORLD HAS THEIR
AVENGERS.

NOW
WE HAVE THE
DEFENDERS OF
THE DEEP.

I AM NAMOR THE FIRST,
KING OF ATLANTIS, LORD
OF THE SEVEN SEAS AND
SUPREME COMMANDER OF
THE UNDERSEA LEGIONS. AND
I AM WARNING YOU ALL.

STAY THE
HELL OUT OF
MY OCEANS.

OR YOU WILL
WISH TO
YOUR GODS
YOU HAD.

10 THE BATTLE FOR THE RIGHT TO BE CALLED...EARTH'S MIGHTIEST



EMZK18!
AND
MORALES + MARTE
GARCIA

SIBERIA.
SECRET SOVIET-ERA
CORRECTIVE LABOR CAMP.
THE LAST GULAG.

«SIR, I
HAVE HERE A LETTER
OF **PARDON**. SIGNED BY
THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
AND THE PRESIDENT
HIMSELF.»*

*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN -TOM

«IT IS A **FULL**
PARDON. OF EVERY
CRIME ON YOUR RECORD,
EVEN GOING BACK
YEARS TO--»

«**CRIMES?!**
NOBODY CALLED THEM
CRIMES WHEN WE WERE
DOING THEM. MORE LIKE
"VALIANT MISSIONS TO
PROTECT THE
MOTHERLAND."»

«WHAT ARE
THESE SUPPOSED
CRIMES, BOY?»

«AH, SIR, WELL,
AMONG OTHER THINGS,
IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU, AH...
MURDERED **FOUR** OF YOUR
COMMANDING OFFICERS.
AND... **CONSUMED**
THEIR REMAINS.»

«**LIES!**
SLANDEROUS
LIES! IT WAS **FIVE**
OFFICERS!»

«BUT I NEVER
ATE THE BASTARDS.
JUST TORE THEM
APART WITH MY MOUTH
WAS ALL.»

«YES,
SIR.»

«A PARDON
ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
I WANT ALL THESE
RIDICULOUS CHARGES
COMPLETELY EXPUNGED
FROM MY RECORD.»

«OF
COURSE,
SIR.»

«EXCEPT FOR THE DEAD
OFFICERS. LEAVE THOSE IN.
GOOD FOR MY REP. THERE
VODKA ON THAT
HELICOPTER YOU
CAME IN?»

«YES, SIR.
I WAS TOLD
TO BRING A...
VERY LARGE
SUPPLY.»

«FOR YOUR
SAKE, I HOPE IT'S
GOOD STUFF, AND NOT
THE TOILET BREW
THEY'VE BEEN GIVING ME
HERE FOR YEARS. SO
WHERE WE HEADED,
SOLDIER?»

<DIRECTLY
TO THE **KREMLIN**,
SIR. THE OTHERS WILL
BE WAITING.>

<HEH.
IT'S ABOUT
DAMN TIME.>

<TELL ME,
PRIVATE, THEY GONNA
LET US DO IT RIGHT THIS
TIME? AND KEEP THE
POLITICIANS OUT OF
OUR FUR FOR A
CHANGE?>

<I'M TOLD HIS
EXCELLENCY HAS
TAKEN A GREAT
PERSONAL INTEREST
IN THIS PROJECT.>

<YEAH, I JUST
BET HE HAS. SO
WHO THE HELL **ELSE**
HAS MOSCOW SUDDENLY
REMEMBERED IS
STILL ALIVE?>

MAJOR MIKHAIL URSUS.
CODENAME: URSA MAJOR.



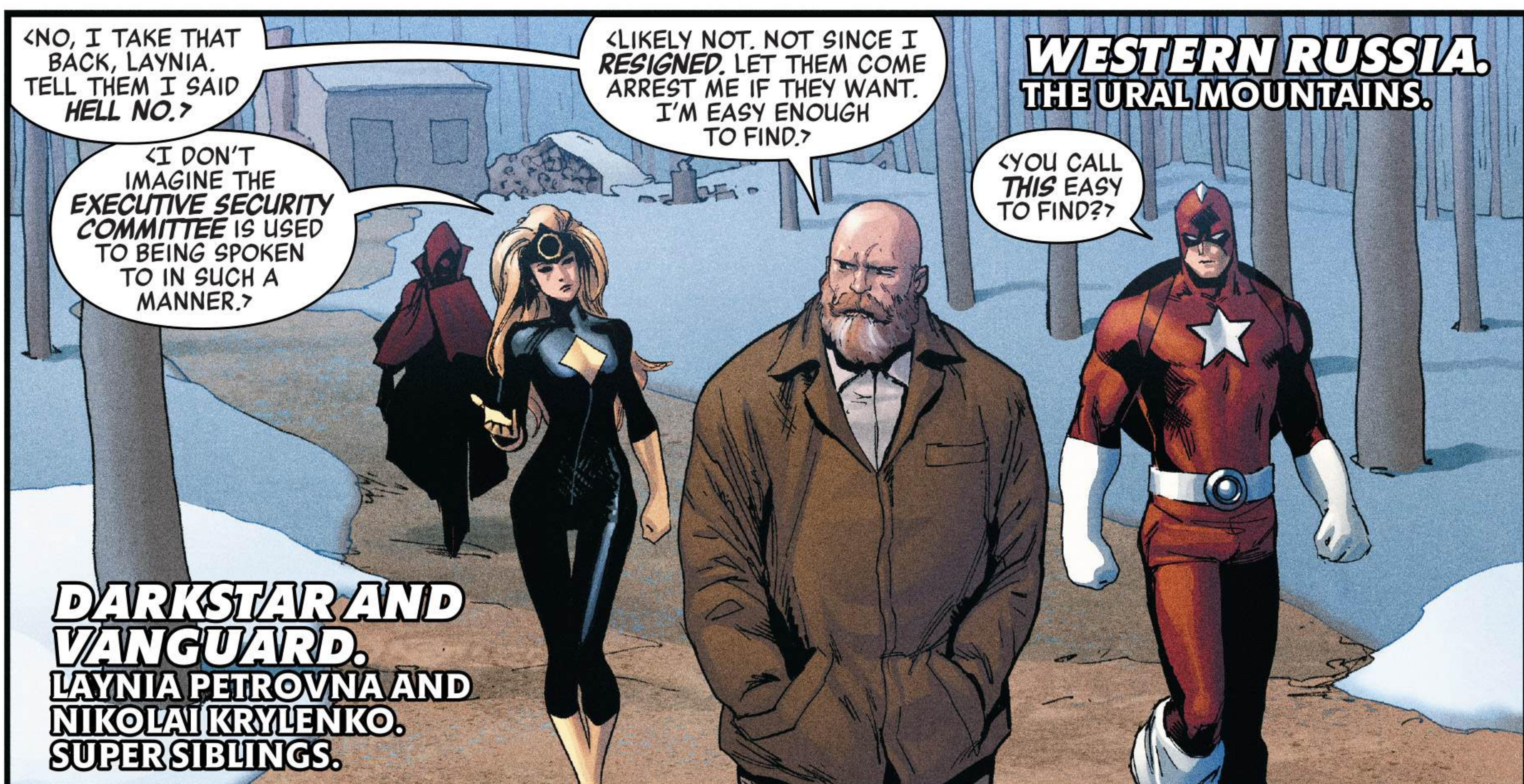


<I UNDERSTAND YOUR RELUCTANCE, DMITRI, BUT THEY'VE ASSURED US THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT.>

<THE FACES OF THE PUPPET MASTERS ARE ALWAYS DIFFERENT. BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE MATTERS MUCH FOR THE PUPPET, DOES IT?>

<TELL THEM I SAID NO.>

DMITRI BUKHARIN.
FORMER KGB OPERATIVE.



<NO, I TAKE THAT BACK, LAYNIA. TELL THEM I SAID HELL NO.>

<I DON'T IMAGINE THE EXECUTIVE SECURITY COMMITTEE IS USED TO BEING SPOKEN TO IN SUCH A MANNER.>

<LIKELY NOT. NOT SINCE I **RESIGNED**. LET THEM COME ARREST ME IF THEY WANT. I'M EASY ENOUGH TO FIND.>

WESTERN RUSSIA.
THE URAL MOUNTAINS.

<YOU CALL **THIS** EASY TO FIND?>

DARKSTAR AND VANGUARD.
LAYNIA PETROVNA AND NIKOLAI KRYLENKO.
SUPERSIBLINGS.



<THIS ISN'T THE OLD DAYS OF THE **SOVIET SUPER-SOLDIERS**, DMITRI. MOSCOW ISN'T LOOKING FOR A PUPPET. THEY WANT YOU TO **LEAD** THE ENTIRE OPERATION.>

<THEY'D MAKE A NEW CABINET POSITION FOR YOU. MINISTER OF SUPERHUMAN DEFENSE.>

<HEH. RUSSIAN SUPER-MINISTER. THEY REALLY MUST BE DESPERATE.>

<AND WHAT DOES OUR QUIET GUEST BACK THERE FROM THE **RED ROOM** HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS?>



«IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE RED WIDOW DOESN'T SAY MUCH OF ANYTHING AT ALL.»

«HER PRESENCE IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE COMMITTEE. BUT SHE WILL FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS.»

RED WIDOW.
NEWEST PRODUCT OF
THE RED ROOM ASSASSIN
TRAINING PROGRAM.
NAME UNKNOWN.



«NO, MORE LIKELY SHE'LL SLIT MY THROAT IF I GET OUT OF LINE.»

«PLEASE, DMITRI, YOU KNOW WE NEED THIS.»

«YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT THE RECENT ATTACKS IN THE BLACK SEA?»

«NEWS SAID IT WAS ROMANIAN REBELS.»

«ROMANIAN REBELS DON'T TEAR SUBMARINES IN HALF WITH THEIR BARE HANDS.»

«SIGH— <THIS IS HAPPENING WHETHER I AGREE OR NOT, ISN'T IT?»



«THE WORLD IS A MORE DANGEROUS PLACE THAN EVER. RUSSIA NEEDS HER GREATEST HEROES.»

«AND THE WINTER GUARD NEEDS YOU, DMITRI.»

«NO, MY FRIENDS, YOU DON'T NEED DMITRI BUKHARIN.»



«YOU NEED THE CRIMSON DYNAMO.»

«LET'S JUST HOPE I REMEMBER WHERE I LEFT THE DAMN KEY.»

«AND TELL ME STRAIGHT, EXACTLY WHO ARE WE GOING AFTER THIS TIME AROUND?»

ATTENTION, TRESPASSERS! LEAVE THESE WATERS AND NEVER RETURN!

NAMOR.
KING OF ATLANTIS.

THE OCEANS OF EARTH ARE HEREBY OFF-LIMITS TO ALL BUT THEIR NATIVE INHABITANTS! NOW AND FOREVERMORE!

THE SOUTH PACIFIC.
THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERSEA BIOSPHERE KNOWN AS HYDROPOLIS.
NORMALLY UNDERWATER.

HA! I'D
MOVE A GOOD BIT
FASTER IF I WERE YOU,
AIR-BREATHER. I DO
BELIEVE THE PIRANHAS
ARE GETTING HUNGRY.

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN. THE NORTH POLE.

WARNING.
AVENGERS
PRIORITY
ALERT.

HEY! IS
ANYBODY
GONNA
ANSWER
THAT?

HELLO?

AH
HELL, WHERE
THE CRAP IS
EVERYBODY?

WARNING.
AVENGERS
PRIORITY
ALERT.

YEAH,
YEAH, YEAH, I'M
COMING. KEEP
YOUR DRAWERS
ON.

HEY,
COMPUTER!
IT'S ME!

VOICE PATTERNS
RECOGNIZED. KEN HALE,
GORILLA-MAN,
AVENGERS BUTLER.

GRRRR, STARK
AND HIS DAMN
JOKES! I'M NOT
THE **BUTLER**! I'M
A SPECIAL
AGENT OF--

WARNING.
AVENGERS
PRIORITY
ALERT.

DAMMIT,
WHAT'S THE DAMN
EMERGENCY? AND
WHERE IN THE DAMN
HELL DO I FIND THE
DAMN **AVENGERS**?



SO REMIND ME, MR. STARK... WHAT DO I GET WHEN I **BEAT** YOU?

THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY.

A STATE-OF-THE-ART REPULSOR-POWERED **WHEELCHAIR** FOR YOUR BROTHER, I BELIEVE WAS THE BET, BASED ON THE SAME TECH THAT POWERS THIS CAR.

AND I'M SUCH A NICE GUY THAT I'LL MAKE THAT **WHEELCHAIR** HAPPEN FOR HIM EVEN WHEN YOU **LOSE**, KID.

SORRY, MR. STARK, BUT NO TECH IN THE WORLD IS A MATCH FOR PURE OLD-FASHIONED **HELLFIRE HORSEPOWER**.

BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL STILL TRY TO USE MY **HELL CHARGER** TO GET A MESSAGE TO YOUR DAD. WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TELL HIM?

LET'S START WITH, "HI, HOWARD. I MADE A CAR FASTER THAN THE **GHOST RIDER**. YOU FINALLY **PROUD** OF ME YET?"

WARNING. AVENGERS PRIORITY ALERT.

AH, CRAP, GUESS THE RACE WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

I DON'T THINK SO, KID. LAST ONE TO THE MOUNTAIN'S A **ROTTEN AVENGER**.

SO...
YOU AND
JEN...

CAN WE
NOT SPEAK
OF THIS?

ATLANTIC SEA FLOOR.
HELICARRIER GRAVEYARD.

WHY NOT?
EVERYONE
ELSE SURE
IS.

SO IT'S REALLY
A THING? **THOR AND
THE HULK?** THE TITANIC
TEAM-UP YOU NEVER
EXPECTED?

NAY, IT IS
NOT A...**THING**.
WE HAVE NOT EVEN
EMBARKED UPON
A PROPER DATE.

YOU HAVEN'T
ASKED HER OUT
YET? WHAT ARE
YOU WAITING
FOR?

YOU BELIEVE
IF I **WERE** TO
ASK HER OUT...
SHE WOULD
SAY **AYE**?

GOOD LORD, IT'S
LIKE I'M CLEANING UP
UNDERWATER S.H.I.E.L.D. GARBAGE
WITH A GOD WHO'S IN GRADE
SCHOOL. YOU WANT ME TO TEXT
HER AND ASK IF SHE LIKES YOU?

WOULD
YOU?

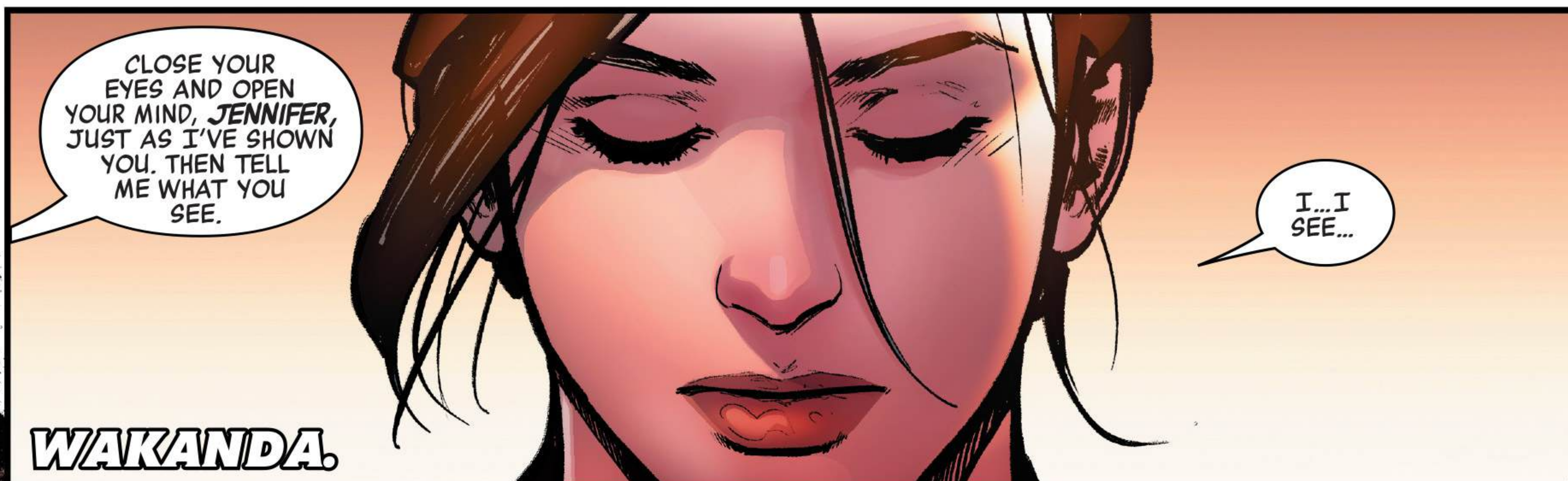
WOW. I'VE
NEVER SEEN A DUDE
IN MORE DESPERATE
NEED OF A WINGMAN.
CAPTAIN MARVEL
TO THE RESCUE.

WHICH MEANS AFTER
WE'RE DONE THROWING
ALL THIS TRASH INTO THE
SUN, THE TACOS ARE
ON YOU, BIG GUY.

WARNING.
AVENGERS
PRIORITY
ALERT.

NEVER MIND
THE TACOS,
I GUESS.

BUT...YOU
CAN STILL
DISPATCH THE
TEXT, YES?



CLOSE YOUR EYES AND OPEN YOUR MIND, **JENNIFER**, JUST AS I'VE SHOWN YOU. THEN TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.

I...I SEE...

WAKANDA.

"...MY OWN SWEET FACE SMILING BACK AT ME, WITH A CALM AND CONFIDENT GRIN."



FOR ALL OUR SALES, I HOPE THAT TO BE THE TRUTH, AS THIS NEXT TEST IS NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART.

HIT ME WITH YOUR BEST SHOT, **T'CHALLA**. I CAN TAKE IT.

JUST NOT SURE WHY YOU HAD ME GET ALL DRESSED UP IF YOU'RE ABOUT TO THROW ME INTO A ROOMFUL OF ANGRY RHINOS.

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND.



YOUR CHALLENGE TODAY, **JENNIFER WALTERS**, IS TO MAKE IT THROUGH AN AVENGERS **PRESS CONFERENCE** WITHOUT HULKING OUT.

OH GOD.

...FROM **ROXXNEWS**. WITH THE AVENGERS NOW AT YOUR BECK AND CALL, IS **WAKANDA** THE WORLD'S ONLY TRUE SUPER-POWER?

WILL THE AVENGERS SUBMIT TO INTERNATIONAL OVERSIGHT?

...AND I QUOTE, "TOADIES OF AN AFRICAN WARLORD."

WARNING. AVENGERS PRIORITY ALERT.

WELL, DARN.

KING T'CHALLA, HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO REPORTS THAT SOME IN CONGRESS WANT TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH YOUR ADMINISTRATION OVER THIS SO-CALLED "AVENGERS-GATE"?

"LOOKS LIKE THE QUESTIONS WILL HAVE TO WAIT."

BLACK PANTHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE AVENGERS. LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING, STEVE...

HOW EXACTLY DID YOU THINK THAT WOULD GO OVER IN THE HALLS OF POWER IN THIS TOWN?

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I FIGURED I COULD MAKE A PRETTY GOOD GUESS, GENERAL ROSS. BUT I HELD OUT HOPE I'D BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.

BELIEVE ME, THERE WAS NOTHING PLEASANT ABOUT THE SURPRISE FOR *US*. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE MAN WHO WEARS OUR FLAG ON HIS CHEST DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO GIVE US SO MUCH AS A HEADS-UP.

WE HAD TO SEE IT ON THE EVENING NEWS, LIKE WE WERE ALL A BUNCH A WORKING SLOBS IN NEBRASKA.

HERE'S ANOTHER NEWS FLASH FOR YOU, GENERAL. I DON'T WORK FOR YOU.

AND THE AVENGERS DON'T WORK FOR *ANY* COUNTRY. WE FIGHT FOR THE EARTH.

THAT MAKES FOR A NICE BUMPER STICKER, CAP. BUT AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED AROUND HERE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA *IS* THE EARTH.

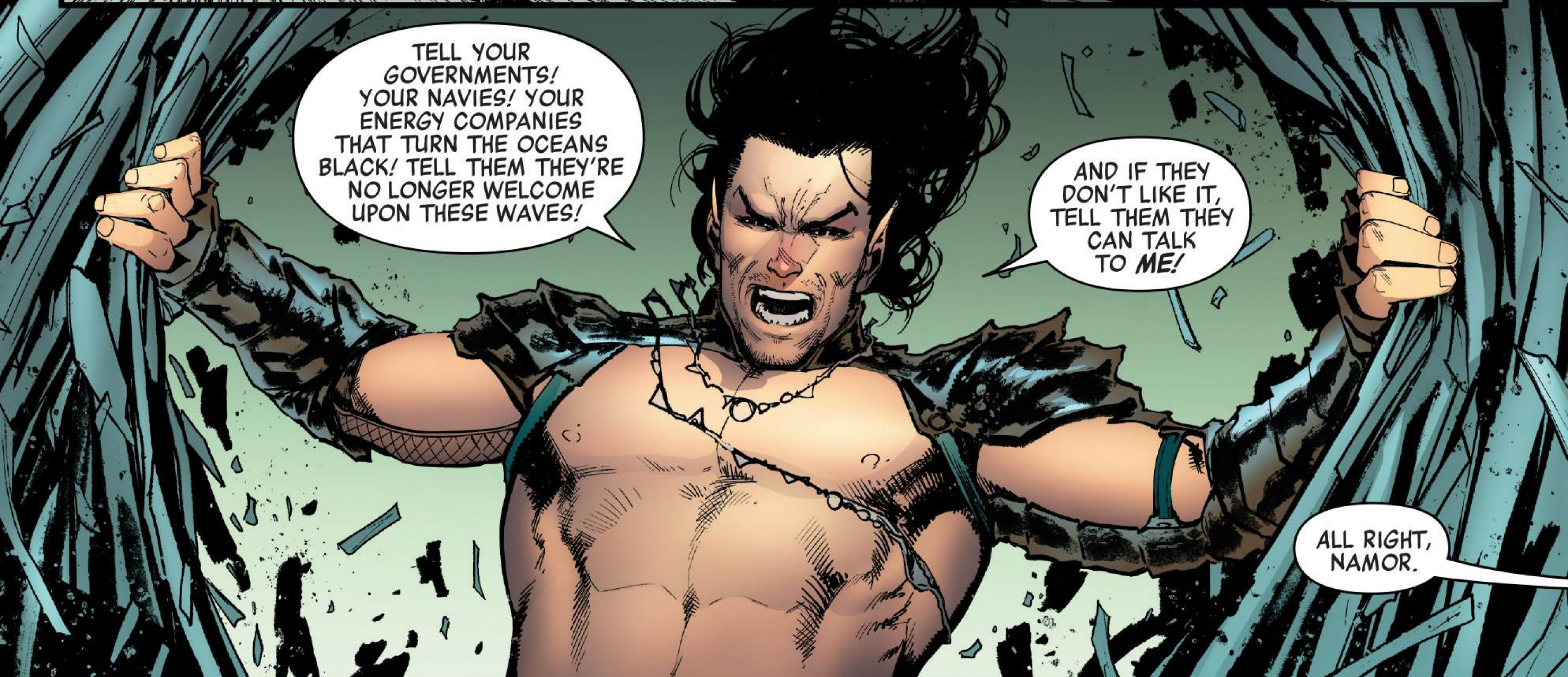
AND IF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN'T TRUST THE AVENGERS ANYMORE... WELL, THEN I'M AFRAID...

GENERAL, LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE BEFORE YOU FINISH THAT THREAT.

YOU CAN TRUST US TO BE THE AVENGERS.

AND IF YOU DECIDE THAT'S SOMETHING YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO TRY TO GET IN THE WAY OF, WELL, I CAN PROMISE YOU THIS, SIR...

...YOUR OLD FRIEND THE HULK WILL BE *NOTHING* COMPARED TO WHAT *I* TURN INTO.





LET'S TALK.

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO THE LIKES OF YOU, PANTHER! OR YOUR FLUNKIES!

NAMOR, WE'VE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO BROKER PEACE WITH ATLANTIS. EVEN AFTER YOU KILLED THOSE ROXXON GUNMEN IN THEIR CELLS. AND DAMN NEAR KILLED STINGRAY, YOUR OWN FRIEND.

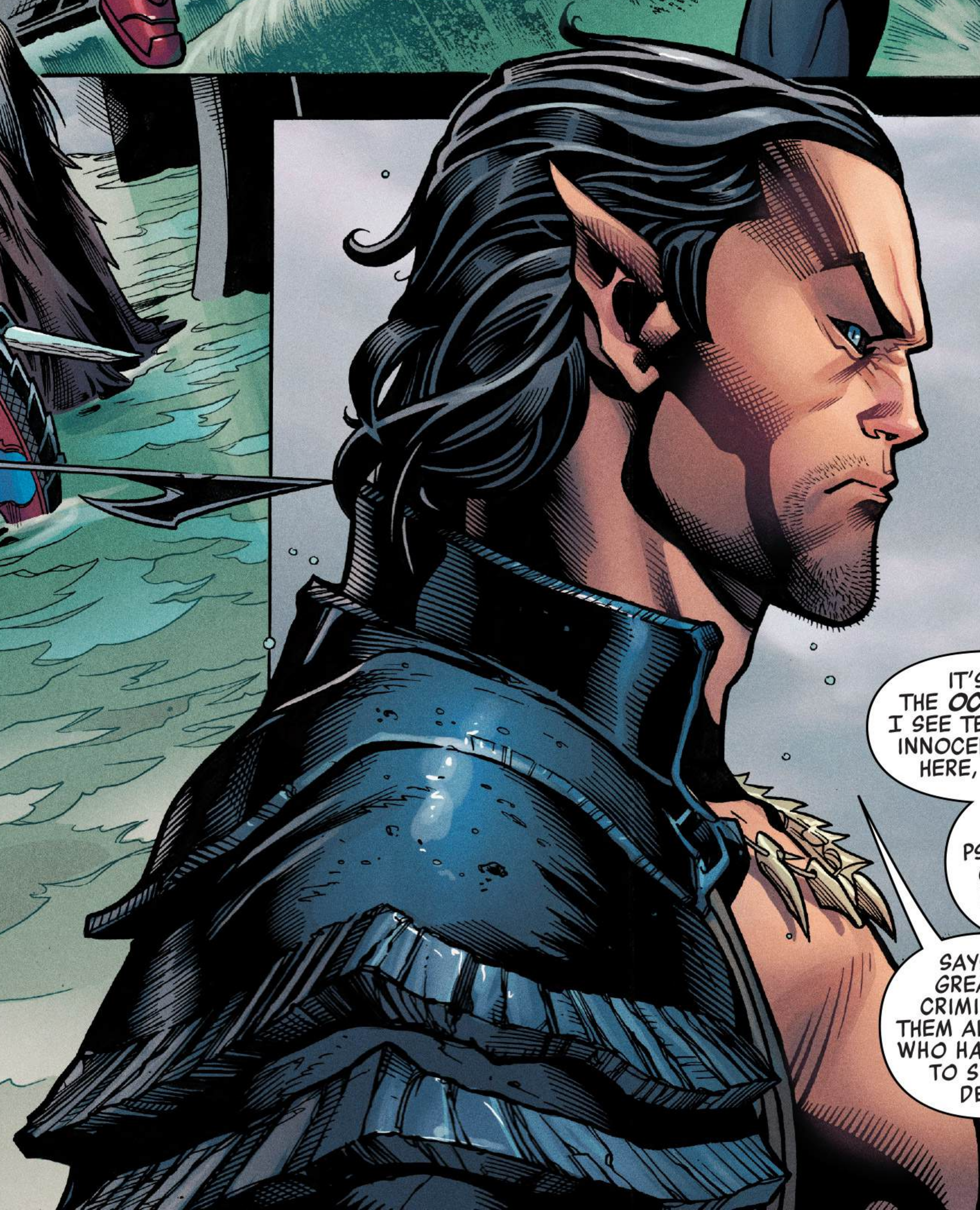
FLUNKIES? WHO SAYS FLUNKIES? HOW OLD IS THIS GUY?



EXECUTED, CAPTAIN.

THOSE ROXXON MURDERERS WERE RIGHTFULLY EXECUTED. BUT NOT BY ME. BY THE OCEAN ITSELF.

AND I HAVE NO MORE FRIENDS FROM THE SURFACE.



IT'S NOT THE OCEAN THAT I SEE TERRORIZING INNOCENT PEOPLE HERE, NAMOR.

IT'S YOU, AND THIS TEAM OF PSYCHOPATHS AND CRIMINALS YOU DARE CALL THE DEFENDERS.

SAYS THE GREATEST CRIMINAL OF THEM ALL. A MAN WHO HAS VOWED TO SEE ME DEAD.

THESE PEOPLE ARE TRESPASSING, AVENGERS. AND SO ARE YOU. TAKE THEM AND NEVER RETURN.

FINE. LET US EVACUATE HYDROPOLIS AND WE WILL GO IN PEACE. FOR NOW.

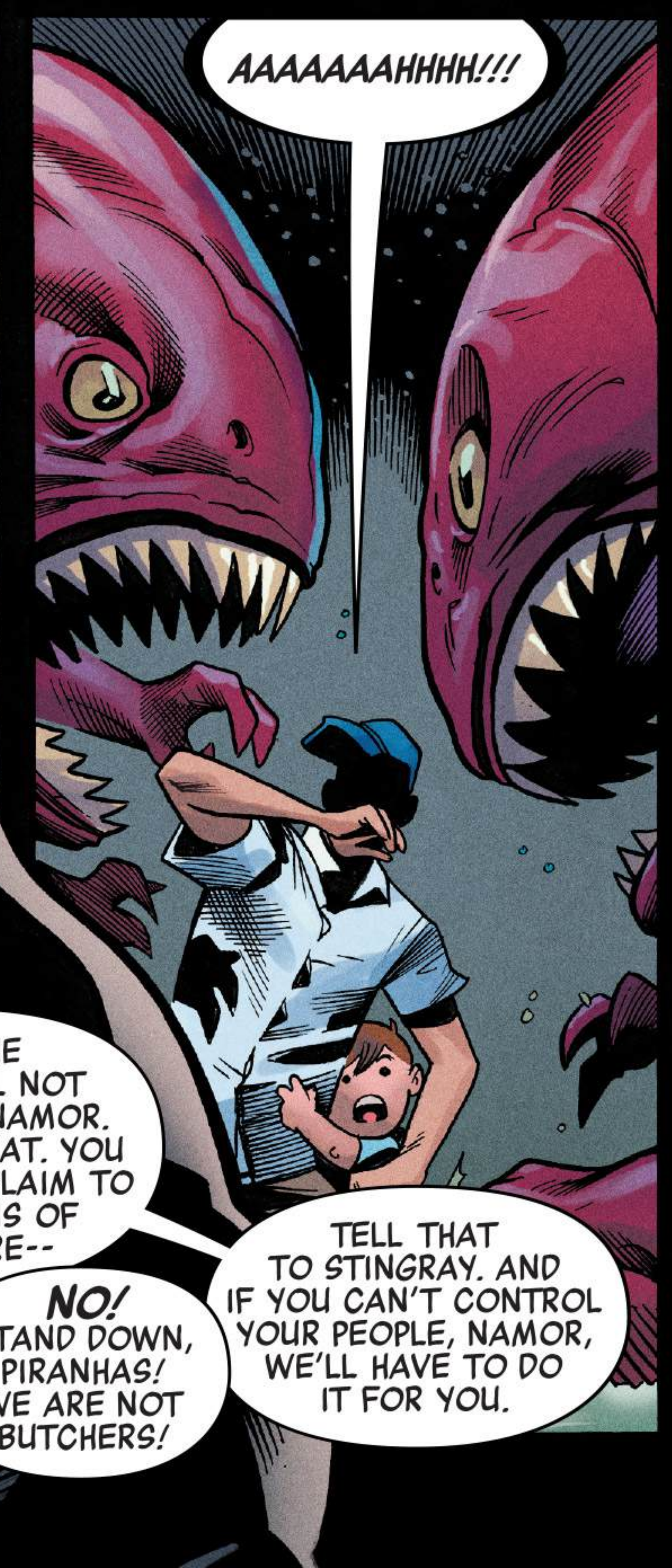
BUT THE WORLD WILL NOT ABIDE THIS, NAMOR. YOU KNOW THAT. YOU CANNOT LAY CLAIM TO THE OCEANS OF THE ENTIRE--

NO! STAND DOWN, PIRANHAS! WE ARE NOT BUTCHERS!

TELL THAT TO STINGRAY. AND IF YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR PEOPLE, NAMOR, WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT FOR YOU.



AAAAAAHHHH!!!



HRRGH!

GRRRHH!

THEY DREW
FIRST BLOOD!
NOW IT'S
ON!

HULK IS
MINE.

HEY, I
WANTED
HULK.

SHUT UP
AND KILL
THOR!

FINE,
BUT THEN I'M
CUTTING IN.

DON'T
EVEN TRY TO
BLAME *US* FOR
THIS, NAMOR.

WANTED TO
EAT YOUR SMUG
FACE FOR A LONG
TIME, CAP! LET'S
DO THIS!

CAP IS
RIGHT, NAMOR,
YOU DID THIS. YOU
BROUGHT THIS ON
YOURSELF.

DAMN IT, I
WARNED YOU
PEOPLE, PANTHER,
TO NEVER INTERFERE
IN AQUATIC BUSINESS
AGAIN. AND I
ALSO PROMISED
YOU...





...THERE
WOULD BE
NO FURTHER
WARNINGS!

**IMPERIUS
REX, YOU
WAKANDAN
BASTARD!**

IT'S NOT
WAKANDA YOU'VE
GOT TO WORRY
ABOUT, KING OF
ATLANTIS.

**AVENGERS!
TAKE THEM
DOWN!**

GAGGH,
DON'T KNOW
WHETHER TO
BLUDGEON YOU
OR EAT YOU,
MONSTER!

SORRY, YOU HEARD
THE BOSS. IT'S BACK
TO THE AQUARIUM YOU
GO, LITTLE MERMAID.

IN A
THOUSAND YEARS
THEY HAVEN'T BUILT
A CAGE THAT COULD
HOLD **ECHIDNA**, THE
MOTHER OF MONSTERS!
I WILL CRACK YOU
OPEN LIKE AN
OYSTER, LITTLE
MAN!

AH, HELL, I GOT
THE ANCIENT
MAGIC ONE.
WHERE'S THOR?
CAN WE SWITCH?

HA! THE
KING CRAB
PLANS ON DOING BOTH
TO YOU, LITTLE
SKY GOD!

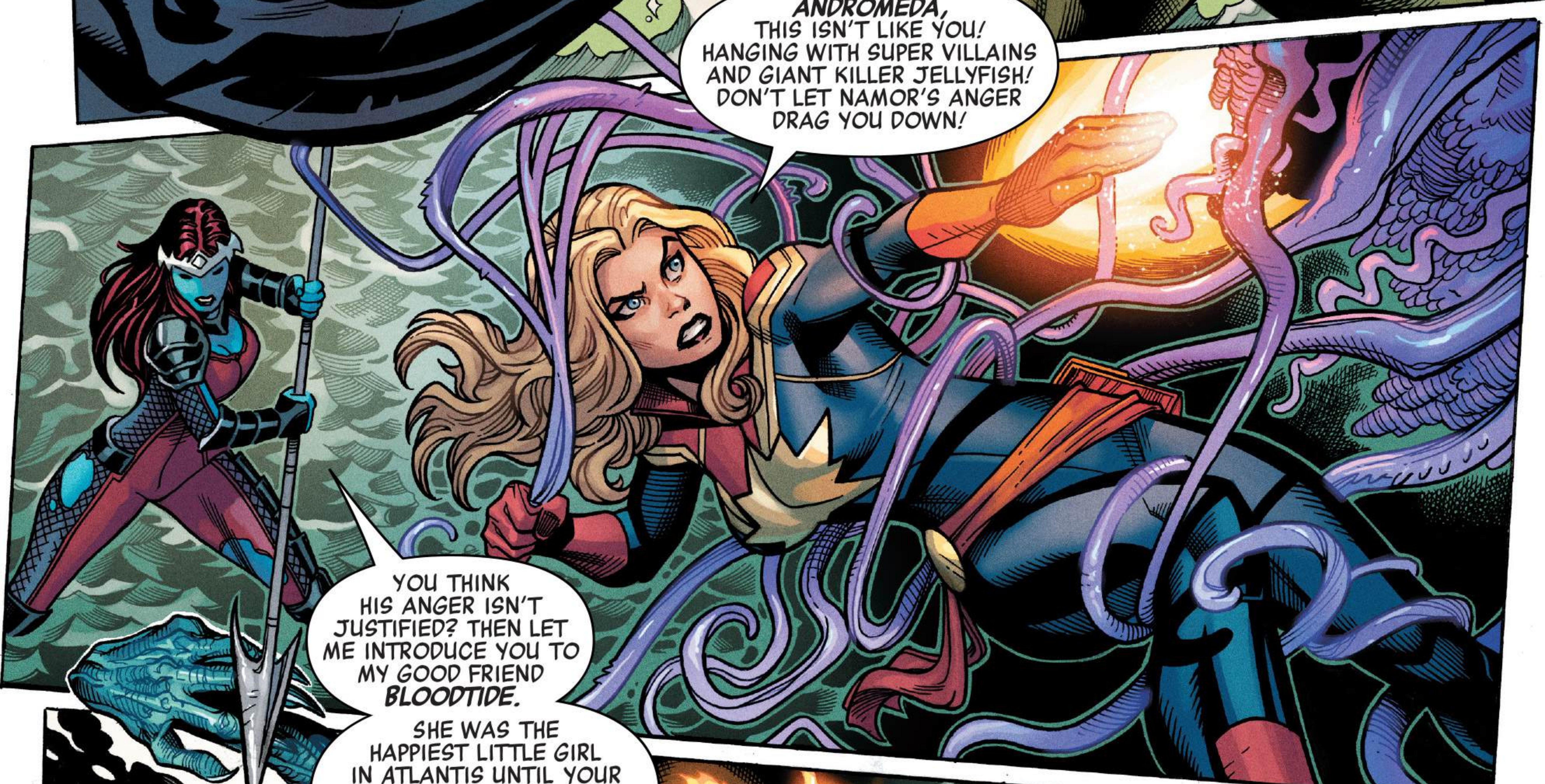
AAHHH!!!
GIANT PIRANHAS!
SWIM FOR YOUR
LIVES!



ARGH, WHY DOES IT **BURN** WHEN I TOUCH YOU? WHAT THE HELL KINDA HULK ARE YOU?

WORST KIND! KIND THAT BURNS AND SMASHES AND EXPLODES!

AND EVEN WORSE, **SUES!**



ANDROMEDA, THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU! HANGING WITH SUPER VILLAINS AND GIANT KILLER JELLYFISH! DON'T LET NAMOR'S ANGER DRAG YOU DOWN!



YOU THINK HIS ANGER ISN'T JUSTIFIED? THEN LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GOOD FRIEND **BLOODTIDE**.

SHE WAS THE HAPPIEST LITTLE GIRL IN ATLANTIS UNTIL YOUR POLLUTANTS RAVAGED HER FLESH, MUTATING HER INTO THE **WATER WITCH** YOU SEE TODAY.



UH, GUYS, I THINK I COULD USE SOME HELP WITH MINE.



DO YOU FEEL THE RAGE OF THE SEA, LITTLE SURFACE DEMON? YOU WILL.

AND ALL THE DEATH YOU'VE GIVEN IT WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU A THOUSANDFOLD!



GUYS, I'VE GOT ZOMBIE SHARKS OVER HERE!

GUYS!!!



LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, NAMOR! LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE BECOME!

GRRRRGGH!!!

THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL GOING TO DIE BECAUSE OF YOU!

NO, T'CHALLA!



YOU'RE GOING TO DIE! AND THEY'RE GOING TO WATCH!

UK!

TANG



GAAGH!

YOU WANNA KILL AN AVENGER, YOUR HIGHNESS?



I'M RIGHT HERE. COME KILL ME.

OLD FRIEND.

THIS IS NOT A GAME, AVENGERS! THE OLD RULES NO LONGER APPLY! THIS IS THE NEW ORDER OF THE WORLD!

AND IF THE OCEAN'S DEFENDERS MUST GO TO WAR TO PRESERVE IT, THEN WAR THERE WILL--

YOU SAY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A WAR, FISHFACE? WELL, GUESS WHAT?

DARKSTAR.
MISTRESS OF THE
DARKFORCE.

CRIMSON DYNAMO.
THE RUSSIAN IRON MAN.

CHERNOBOG.
SLAVIC GOD OF DARKNESS.

WE ARE THE
WINTER GUARD!
AND WE'VE COME
FOR JUSTICE!

NAMOR OF ATLANTIS!
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST
FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST
THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE IN
THE BLACK SEA!

ONE
JUST SHOWED
THE HELL UP!

URSA MAJOR.
WORLD'S DRUNKEST
BEAR.

RED WIDOW.
ABILITIES UNKNOWN.
PRESUMED MURDEROUS.

VANGUARD.
RUSSIAN SUPER-SOLDIER.

VOSTOK.
SOVIET-ERA
SYNTHEZOID.

PERUN.
SLAVIC STORM GOD.

STAND ASIDE,
LITTLE PUSSYCAT.
LET A REAL ANIMAL
TAKE IT FROM
HERE.

PERUN!
CHERNOBOG! YOU
HEARD THE BOSS. TAKE
NAMOR INTO CUSTODY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT
BEING GENTLE.

AYE! WITH
PLEASURE!

I DO
HOPE HE
RESISTS.

AVENGERS,
RUSSIAN SUPER-
SOLDIERS. LET THE
SURFACE WORLD
SEND ALL THE ARMIES
IT WANTS! THEIR
CARCASSES WILL
LITTER THE
DEPTHS!

YOU
SHOULD SPEAK
WITH MORE
CARE WHEN YOU
ADDRESS THE
GODS, MAN OF
ATLANTIS!

MAN
OR HULK OR
GOD, I CARE NOT!
YOU ARE ALL JUST
AIR AND BONES
TO ME!

"AND WHAT HAPPENED THEN?"

"WHAT YOU'D EXPECT, SIR. A HUGE BRAWL."

"SOME IMPRESSIVE DISPLAYS OF POWER. BUT NOT ENOUGH BLOODSHED FOR MY LIKING."

"AND HOW DID THE AVENGERS REACT TO THE SUDDEN INTERVENTION OF THE WINTER GUARD?"

"THEY WERE SURPRISED AT FIRST BUT SEEMED HAPPY TO HAVE SOME ASSISTANCE."

"NAMOR'S DEFENDERS MAY BE WILD AND UNDISCIPLINED, BUT THEY'RE STILL AN IMPRESSIVE GATHERING OF FREAKS AND KILLERS. AND THEY WERE IN THEIR ELEMENT."

"THE AVENGERS AND THE WINTER GUARD SEEMED TO BE STAYING OUT OF ONE ANOTHER'S WAY. AT LEAST AT FIRST."

"UNTIL THE INCIDENT WITH THE GODS TURNED..."

"YES, WE'LL GET TO THAT. AND WHERE EXACTLY WERE YOU DURING ALL OF THIS?"

"DOING MY JOB, SIR. OBSERVING."

"THEN PLEASE, GIVE ME YOUR FULL OBSERVATION."

"HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE NEW WINTER GUARD'S PERFORMANCE?"

"YOU MAY SPEAK FREELY, RED WIDOW."



"THEY'RE NOT
READY, SIR."

"BUT I'LL GET
THEM THERE."

"I CAN MAKE THEM
THE STRONGEST
WINTER GUARD THE
WORLD'S EVER SEEN."

"I'D JUST RECOMMEND
YOU LET ME KILL ONE
OR TWO TO HELP
INSPIRE THE OTHERS."

"I CAN LIST MY
CHOICES IN ORDER
OF PERSONAL
PREFERENCE."

WIDOW!
WHAT THE
HELL'S SHE
DOING?

"WE...SHALL SEE.
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR
NOW, RED WIDOW."

"YES, SIR.
THANK YOU, YOUR
EXCELLENCY."

NOW YOU
MEET YOUR END,
ATLANTEAN, AT THE
HANDS OF PERUN,
LORD OF THE
STORM!

BAH, STAND ASIDE, PERUN. DON'T COME BETWEEN A GOD AND HIS MEAT. THIS KILL BELONGS TO CHERNOBOG!

WHAT? YOU DARE?

I KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE TO ALLOW YOUR PRESENCE HERE. IF YOU CANNOT CONTROL YOUR BLACK HEART...

IF YOU DO NOT REMOVE YOUR HAND, I WILL SHOW YOU YOUR VERY RED AND STILL-BEATING HEART, YOU CLOUD-HUMPING LOUSE.

CHERNOBOG! DEFEND YOURSELF, YOU CUR!

BLOW IT OUT YOUR STORMHOLE, PERUN! I WILL GUT YOU LIKE AN INFANT GOAT!

PERUN! CHERNOBOG! DAMN IT, STAND DOWN!

YOU WENT DOUBLE GOD, DMITRI. NEVER GO DOUBLE GOD.

SOMEONE STOP THEM BEFORE THEY KILL US ALL!

RRRRGGH!!

STUPID GODS STOP BEING STUPID!!!

"GENERAL ROSS? WE'VE JUST RECEIVED AN AIR-RECONNAISSANCE REPORT FROM OVER THE PACIFIC, SIR."

"GIVE IT TO ME PLAINLY, SOLIDER."

"WELL, SIR...IT APPEARS ALL HELL HAS BROKEN LOOSE AT HYDROPOLIS."

HEY!
YOU HURT
OUR GODS, I
TAKE A CHUNK
OUTTA
YOURS!

"THE AVENGERS, NAMOR'S
DEFENDERS OF THE DEEP...
AND NOW THE RUSSIAN
WINTER GUARD. THEY'RE ALL
FIGHTING EACH OTHER, SIR."

JUST STAY
OUT OF OUR
WAY, ROGERS! WE'LL
HANDLE THIS!

GAGH! DO
YOU BATHE
IN VODKA,
BEAST?

I'VE SEEN
HOW YOU PEOPLE
HANDLE THINGS,
VANGUARD. I'VE GOT
THE SCARS TO
PROVE IT.

"WELL, AIN'T THAT
JUST A PEACH."

"SHOULD WE
INTERVENE, SIR?"

GRRRGH!

"AND HOW THE HELL DO YOU
PROPOSE WE DO THAT? THERE'S
NO MORE S.H.I.E.L.D.--ALL THEIR
HELICARRIERS WERE SUNK IN
THE DAMN OCEAN.

"AND LOOK AROUND YA, SON.
THE GOOD OLD U.S. OF A.
AIN'T GOT NO SUPER-
BASTARDS ON THE PAYROLL.

ALL RIGHT, HULK,
YOU'VE STOPPED THE
GODS! THAT'S ENOUGH,
YOU MONSTER!

DMITRI...
NOBODY TALKS THAT
WAY TO OUR HULK.

"NOT YET, AT LEAST.
WHERE THE HELL'S
THAT *AGENT*? GET
HIM IN HERE!"

WHEN WILL YOU LEARN
YOU DON'T OWN THE
ENTIRE WORLD, STARK!

I'M DEFINITELY A
MAJOR SHAREHOLDER,
DMITRI! AND AS USUAL,
YOU'RE LOOKING AWFULLY
BAD FOR BUSINESS!

<GREAT SHALL
YOUR GLORY BE,
MOTHERLAND PROUD
AND FREE!/?

<BULWARK OF
FRIENDSHIP FOR NATION
AND MAN! FLAG OF THE
PEOPLE SINCE
FREEDOM BEGAN!/?

OH MAN. WHOOO,
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
I COULD USE A LITTLE
BREAK MY--

GAAAGH!

GET OFF ME,
DARKSTAR! WE'VE
GOT TO SAVE THOSE
PEOPLE!

I CAN
SAVE THE WHOLE
LOT OF THEM IN
SECONDS, DANVERS, IF
YOU'D JUST GET OVER
YOUR POMPUS
SELF AND--

HGGK



GRKKT

DEFENDERS
OF THE DEEP!

WE ARE
LEAVING!

JOIN ME IN
THE DEPTHS. OR
ELSE JOIN THE
PIRANHAS.



HE...HE
KILLED HIS
OWN MEN!



AND NOW HIS
DEFENDERS ARE
GETTING AWAY!

I'D WORRY
MORE ABOUT
YOUR OWN SIDE
RIGHT NOW,
CRIMSON DYNAMO.





THIS IS
YOUR FAULT,
AVENGERS!

IF YOU'D STAYED
THE HELL OUT OF OUR
WAY, NAMOR WOULD BE
IN A RUSSIAN CELL
RIGHT NOW!

LAST I HEARD,
THAT'S WHERE **YOU**
WERE, URSA MAJOR. AND
IF YOU'RE ALL WORKING
FOR THE KREMLIN AGAIN,
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK
IT'LL BE BEFORE THEY
BETRAY YOU AND PUT
YOU RIGHT BACK
BEHIND BARS?

WE WORK FOR
THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE.
GO BACK TO **WAKANDA**,
AVENGERS. AND LEAVE
OUR COUNTRY'S
BUSINESS TO US.

DON'T GO DOWN
THIS PATH AGAIN,
DMITRI. WE ALL
KNOW WHERE IT
LEADS.

I SEE
WHY THEY
BROUGHT
ME BACK,
STARK.

YOU PEOPLE HAVE
LOST YOUR GRIP
ON THIS PLANET.

SO NOW IT'S
UP TO US TO FIND
OURS. AND THAT
STARTS HERE TO--

NOT
TODAY.

RED WIDOW?
SHE SPEAKS.

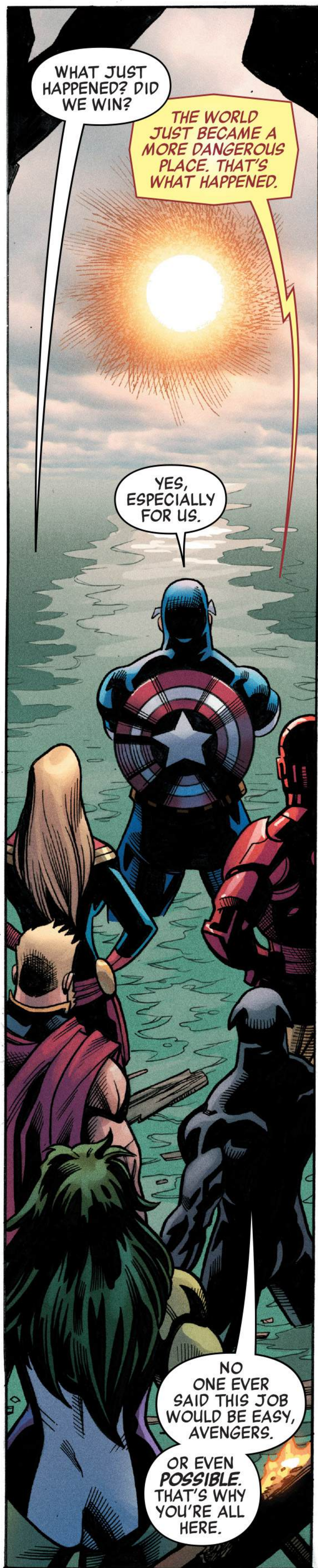
I DIDN'T
GIVE THAT
ORDER.

MAYBE YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN,
WIDOW. BUT I'M
THE LEADER OF--

YEAH,
SHE **STABS**,
TOO.

WE'RE
PULLING OUT,
WINTER GUARD.
THIS OPERATION
IS FINISHED.

GET YOUR ASS BACK
TO MOSCOW, BUKHARIN.
DON'T MAKE ME DETONATE
YOUR SUIT RIGHT HERE IN
FRONT OF EVERYONE.



WHAT JUST HAPPENED? DID WE WIN?

THE WORLD JUST BECAME A MORE DANGEROUS PLACE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

YES, ESPECIALLY FOR US.

NO ONE EVER SAID THIS JOB WOULD BE EASY, AVENGERS.

OR EVEN POSSIBLE. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALL HERE.



"BECAUSE NONE OF YOU SHOULD BE POSSIBLE EITHER.

"AND NOTHING LESS THAN THE UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE IS WHAT I'LL ASK OF YOU EVERY TIME YOU ANSWER OUR CALL.



"THESE ARE DARK TIMES, AVENGERS. AND THEY ARE ONLY TRENDING FURTHER INTO DARKNESS.

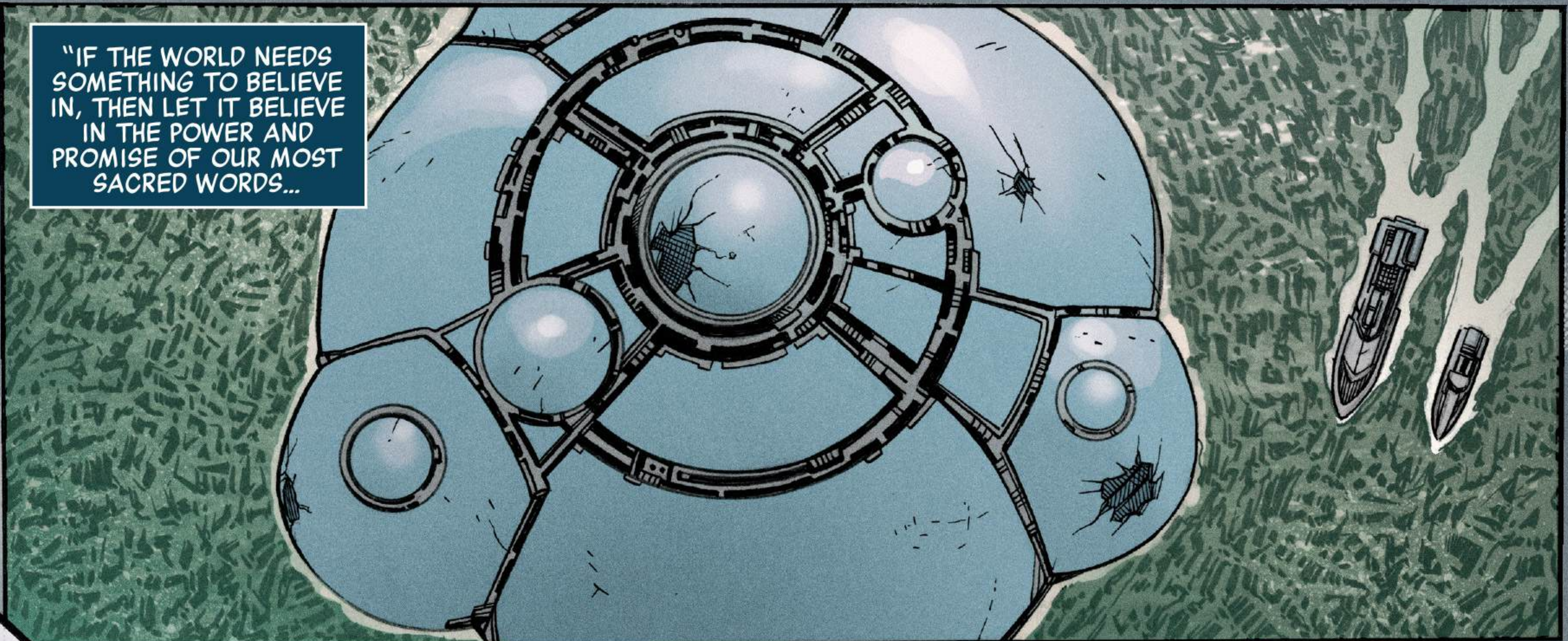
"IF WE'RE GOING TO KEEP THIS PLANET INTACT LONG ENOUGH FOR ITS PEOPLE TO PULL THEMSELVES BACK INTO THE LIGHT, WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT ONE IMPOSSIBLE DAY AT A TIME.

"TODAY WAS A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER. TOMORROW WILL BE MORE OF THE SAME."

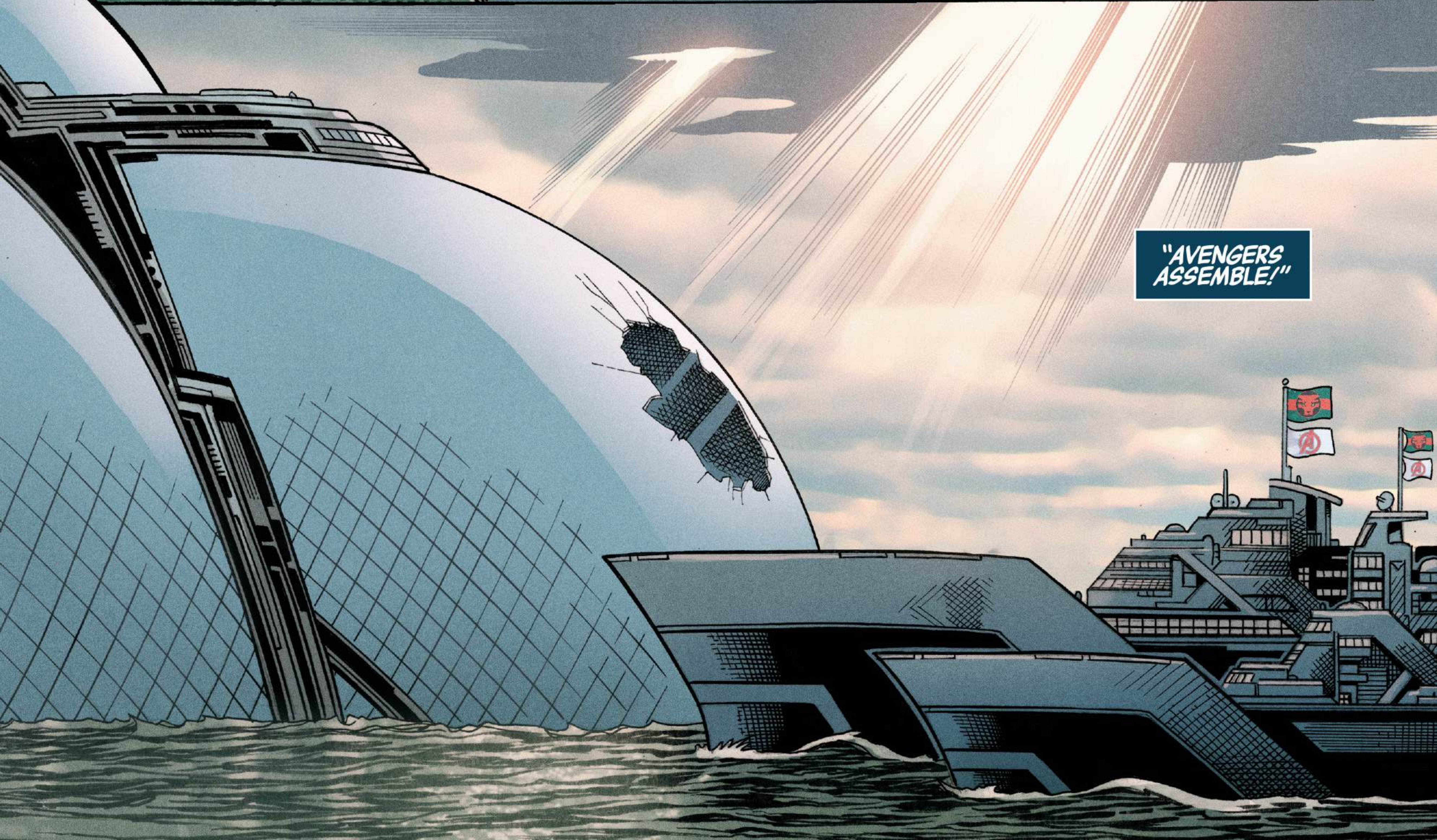
"BUT THAT'S OUR JOB DESCRIPTION. THAT'S WHY WE STAND TOGETHER."



"IF THE WORLD NEEDS SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN, THEN LET IT BELIEVE IN THE POWER AND PROMISE OF OUR MOST SACRED WORDS..."

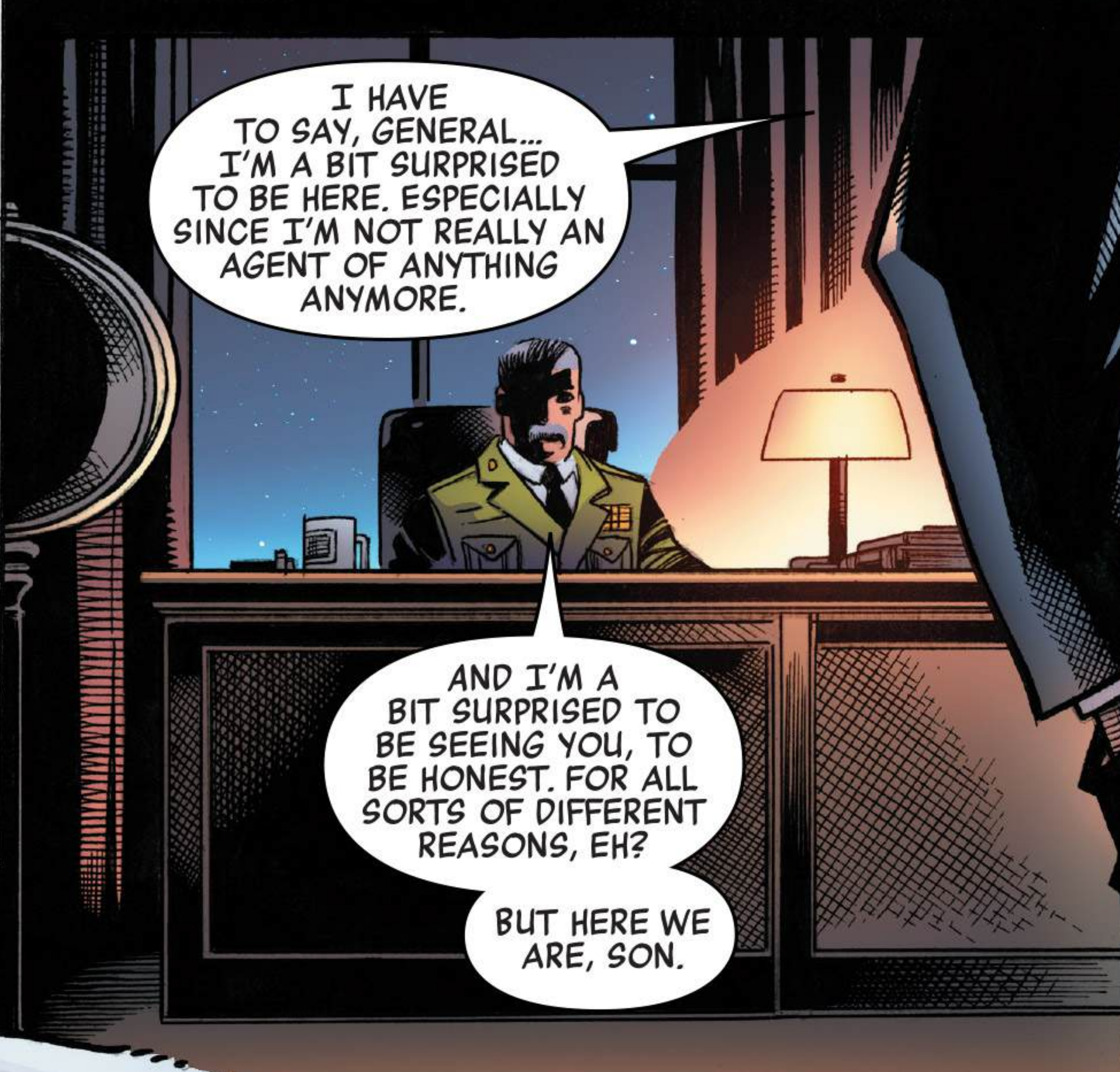


"AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!"





"GENERAL ROSS...
THE AGENT HAS
ARRIVED."



I HAVE
TO SAY, GENERAL...
I'M A BIT SURPRISED
TO BE HERE. ESPECIALLY
SINCE I'M NOT REALLY AN
AGENT OF ANYTHING
ANYMORE.

AND I'M A
BIT SURPRISED TO
BE SEEING YOU, TO
BE HONEST. FOR ALL
SORTS OF DIFFERENT
REASONS, EH?

BUT HERE WE
ARE, SON.



OUR COUNTRY
HAS A SERIOUS
PROBLEM. YOU'RE
GOING TO HELP
US WITH THE
SOLUTION.

WE'VE LOST
S.H.I.E.L.D. NOW
WE'VE LOST THE
AVENGERS. JUST IN
TIME FOR THE WHOLE
WORLD TO GO
STRAIGHT TO
HELL.

AND WE ARE
NOT ACCUSTOMED
TO LOSING AROUND
HERE. I'M COUNTING
ON YOU TO DEAL
US A WINNING
HAND.



I BELIEVE
I'VE DONE THAT,
SIR. IF YOU'D LIKE
TO SEE YOUR
CARDS...

HEH. I HAD
A FEELING YOU
WERE THE RIGHT
MAN FOR THE
JOB.

WELCOME
TO THE DEEP
STATE...

...AGENT
COULSON.

HAPPY
TO BE BACK,
GENERAL.

AND I'M ALSO
PROUD TO PRESENT
THIS COUNTRY'S NEWEST
AND GREATEST HEROES.
I GIVE YOU...

...THE
**SQUADRON
SUPREME OF
AMERICA.**



LATER.
EAST L.A.

"ROBBIE!
I CAN FLY!"

TELL
IRON MAN
HE'S MY FAVORITE
AVENGER EVER!

WILL DO,
GABE. NO
FLYING TOO
HIGH, BUD.

WHERE YOU
GOING? YOU GOTTA
GO TO YOUR NEW JOB
AGAIN? YOU JUST
GOT BACK.

JUST GOING
TO CHECK OUTSIDE.
THOUGHT I HEARD
SOMEBODY MESSING
WITH THE CAR.

OKAY,
ROBBIE!

YOU
SMELL LIKE
FISH!

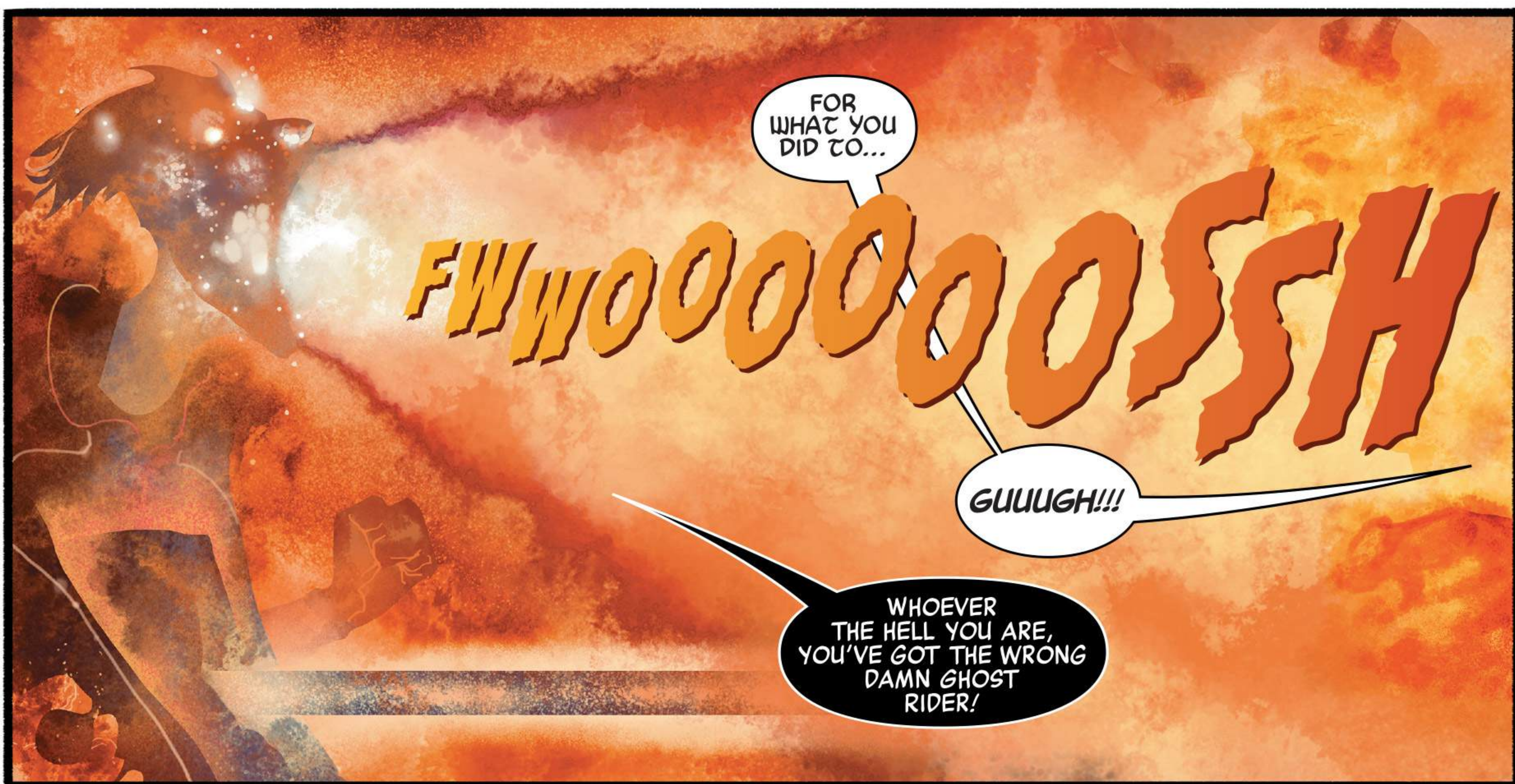
WITH MY LUCK,
SOMEBODY'LL TRY
TO STEAL THIS
STUPID CAR AND THE
HELL CHARGER WILL
EAT 'EM ALIVE.

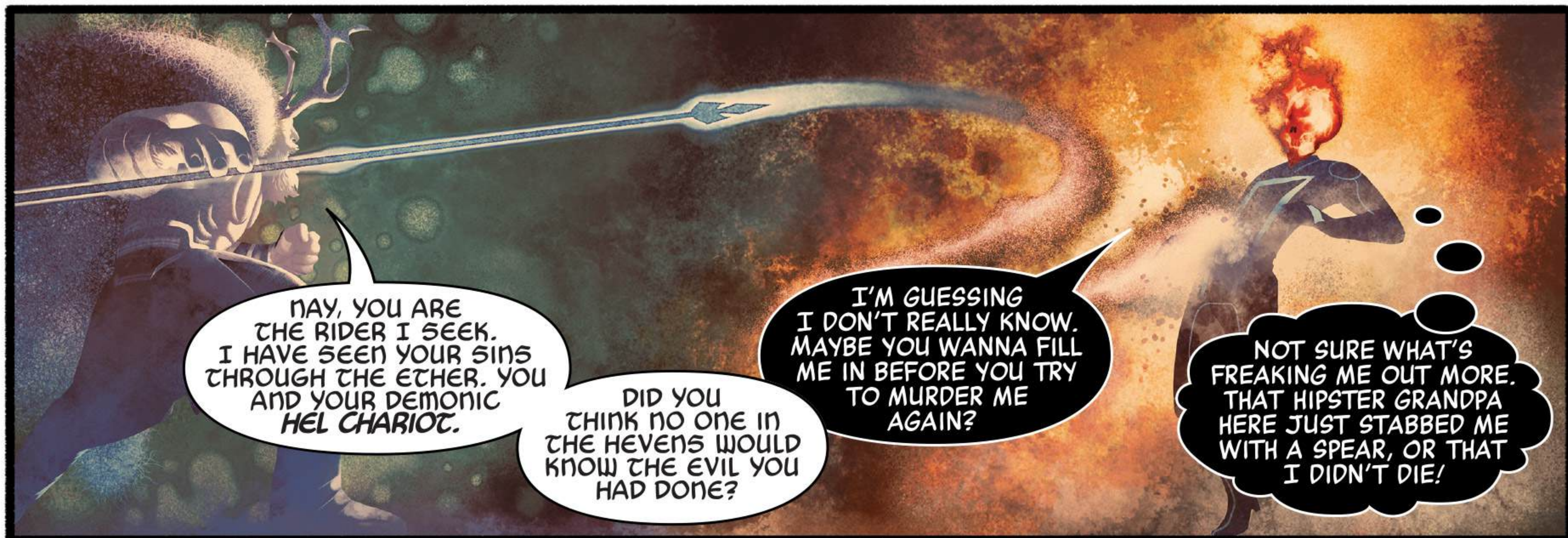
THERE'S STILL
SO MUCH I DON'T
UNDERSTAND ABOUT
THIS DAMN CAR AND MY
CONNECTION TO IT--
EVEN WITH THE AVENGERS
TRYING TO HELP ME
FIGURE IT OUT.

USED TO BE
YOU COULDN'T SHUT
THE THING UP, BUT NOW
IT WON'T TALK AT ALL.
IT'S ALMOST
LIKE...

...IT'S **AFRAID**.
BUT WHAT THE HELL
COULD SCARE A CAR
POSSESSED BY THE SOUL
OF A DEAD SERIAL
KILLER?

THERE
YOU ARE!



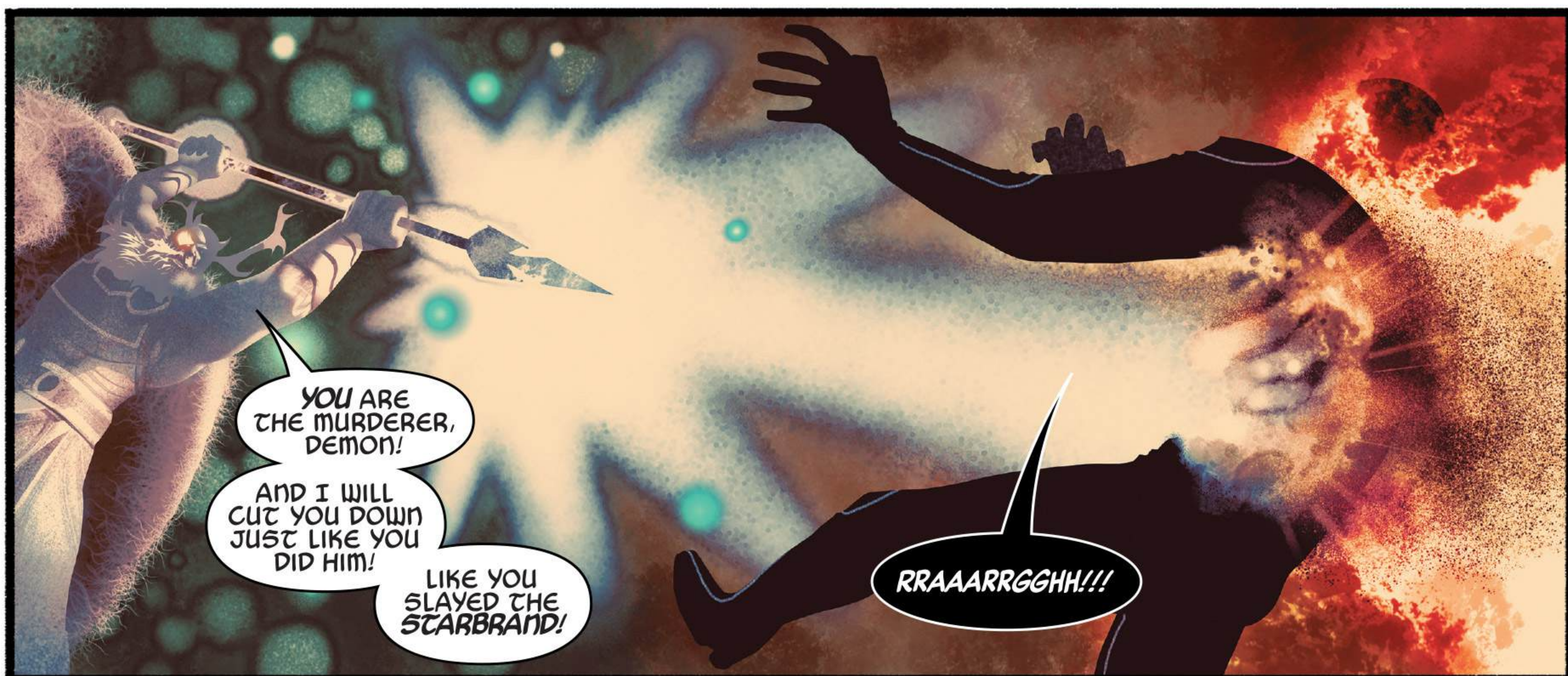


NAY, YOU ARE THE RIDER I SEEK. I HAVE SEEN YOUR SINS THROUGH THE ETHER. YOU AND YOUR DEMONIC HEL CHARIOT.

DID YOU THINK NO ONE IN THE HEAVENS WOULD KNOW THE EVIL YOU HAD DONE?

I'M GUESSING I DON'T REALLY KNOW. MAYBE YOU WANNA FILL ME IN BEFORE YOU TRY TO MURDER ME AGAIN?

NOT SURE WHAT'S FREAKING ME OUT MORE. THAT HIPSTER GRANDPA HERE JUST STABBED ME WITH A SPEAR, OR THAT I DIDN'T DIE!

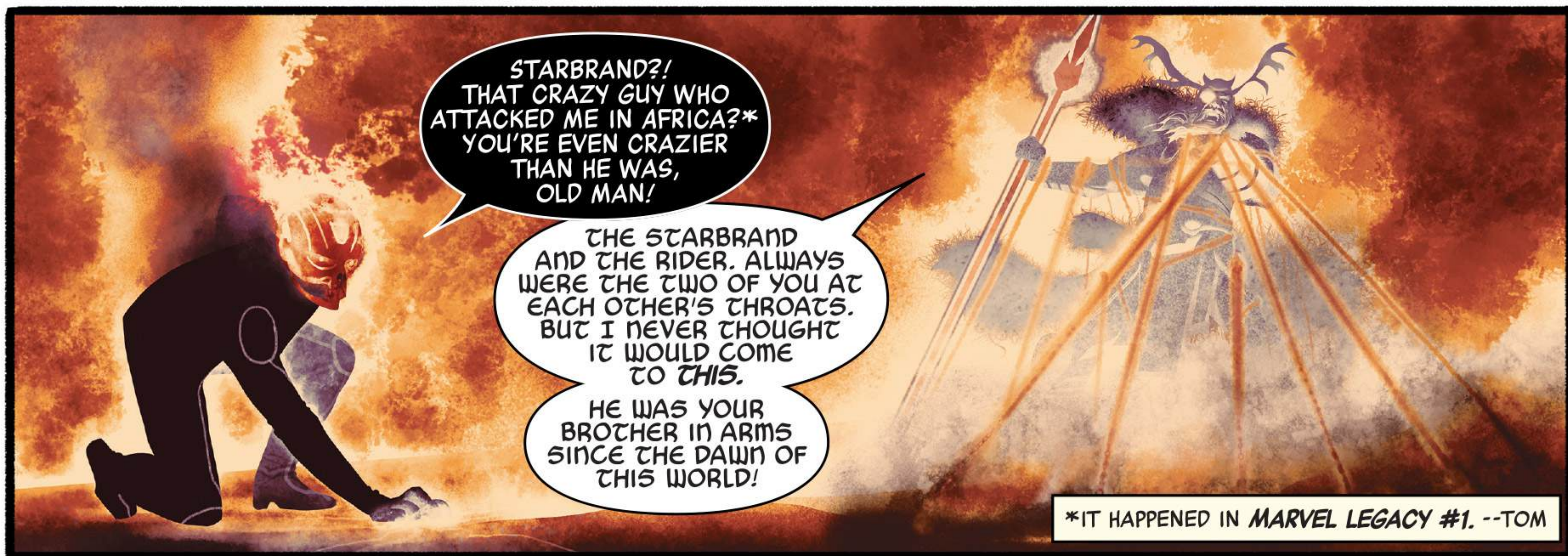


YOU ARE THE MURDERER, DEMON!

AND I WILL CUT YOU DOWN JUST LIKE YOU DID HIM!

LIKE YOU SLAYED THE STARBRAND!

RRAAARRGGHH!!!



STARBRAND?! THAT CRAZY GUY WHO ATTACKED ME IN AFRICA? YOU'RE EVEN CRAZIER THAN HE WAS, OLD MAN!

THE STARBRAND AND THE RIDER. ALWAYS WERE THE TWO OF YOU AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS. BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS. HE WAS YOUR BROTHER IN ARMS SINCE THE DAWN OF THIS WORLD!

*IT HAPPENED IN MARVEL LEGACY #1. --TOM



AND NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAMILY!

IN THE NAME OF THE STARBRAND, I CONDEMN YOU TO DIE, BROTHER RIDER! MAY SOME OTHER GODS SOMEWHERE HAVE MERCY ON YOUR CURSED SOUL!

WAIT!



I DIDN'T KILL HIM. YOUR STARBRAND FRIEND. AT LEAST...I DIDN'T MEAN TO.

HE WAS OUT OF CONTROL, ATTACKING ME FOR NO REASON, ATTACKING EVERYONE AROUND HIM.

TO TRY TO STOP HIM, I...I GAVE HIM THE **PENANCE STARE**. WHICH I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I COULD DO. AND HE JUST...HE BLEW UP.

HE BLEW UP AND DIED.



LOST CONTROL? THIS...WAS JUST BEFORE THE COMING OF THE **FINAL HOST**?

YEAH. YEAH, I SUPPOSE IT WAS. I GUESS HE KNEW THAT WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN. MAYBE HE WAS TRYING TO WARN ME.

OF COURSE HE WAS. HE WAS TERRIFIED.



AND THAT TERROR DROVE THE POOR MORTAL **INSANE**.

SO IT WASN'T YOU WHO KILLED THE STARBRAND AFTER ALL, RIDER.

IT WAS I.

FOR IT WAS **ODIN THE ALL-FOOL** WHO BURIED THE FALLEN CELESTIAL ONE MILLION YEARS AGO...AND BEGAN THE...



BLAAARRGGGGH!!!

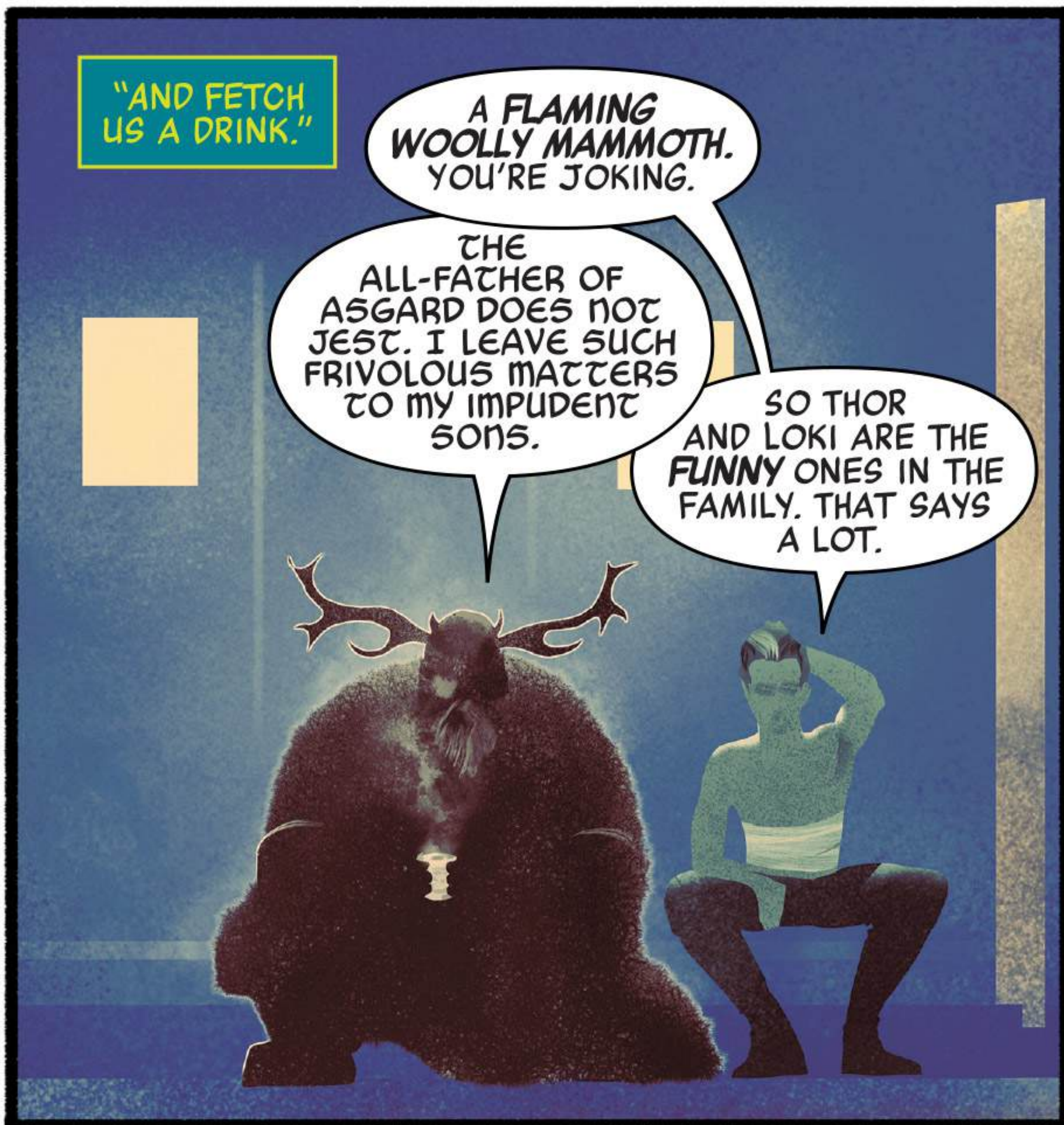


DUDE.

ARE YOU **DRUNK**?

ONLY ENOUGH TO MAKE A FOOL OF MYSELF. WHICH IS SUDDENLY NOT NEARLY DRUNK ENOUGH.

HELP ME UP, BOY.



"AND FETCH US A DRINK."

A FLAMING WOOLLY MAMMOTH. YOU'RE JOKING.

THE ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD DOES NOT JEST. I LEAVE SUCH FRIVOLOUS MATTERS TO MY IMPUDENT SONS.

SO THOR AND LOKI ARE THE FUNNY ONES IN THE FAMILY. THAT SAYS A LOT.



AS A RIDER, YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR LEGACY, YOUNG ROBERTO. SORDID AS IT MAY BE.

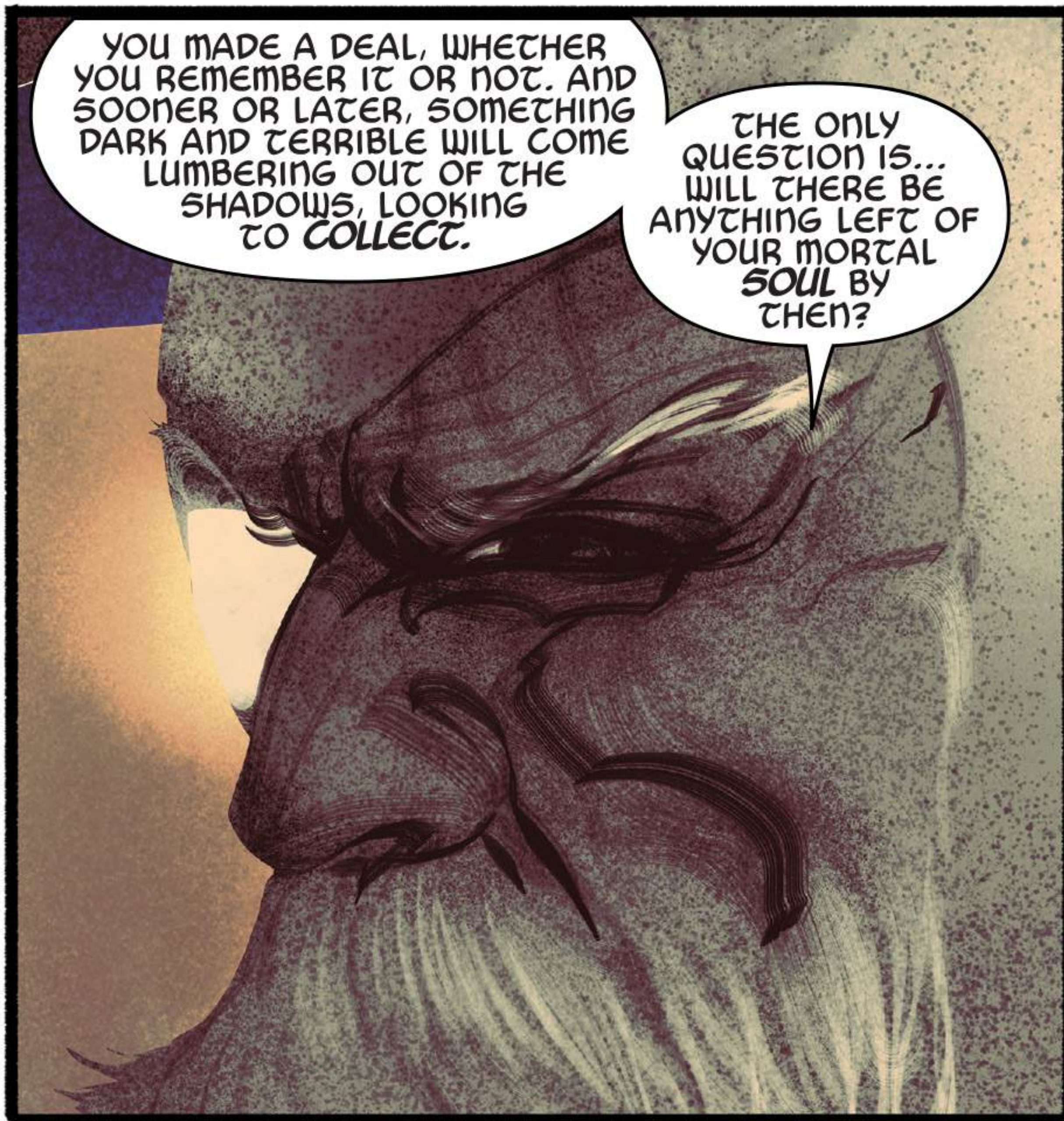
ALMOST AS SORDID AS THIS "COFFEE" OF YOURS. ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T ANY MEAD?



I'M DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER GHOST RIDERS I'VE MET.

I NEVER MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL. I JUST... *DIED*. AND THAT CRAZY POSSESSED CAR BROUGHT ME BACK.

THE RIDERS ARE ALWAYS DIFFERENT. YET ALWAYS THE SAME IN ONE IMPORTANT REGARD.



YOU MADE A DEAL, WHETHER YOU REMEMBER IT OR NOT. AND SOONER OR LATER, SOMETHING DARK AND TERRIBLE WILL COME LUMBERING OUT OF THE SHADOWS, LOOKING TO COLLECT.

THE ONLY QUESTION IS... WILL THERE BE ANYTHING LEFT OF YOUR MORTAL SOUL BY THEN?



OR WILL YOU HAVE GIVEN IT ALL TO THE VENGEFUL *MONSTER* INSIDE YOU?

THAT RIDER WITH THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH... WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HIM?



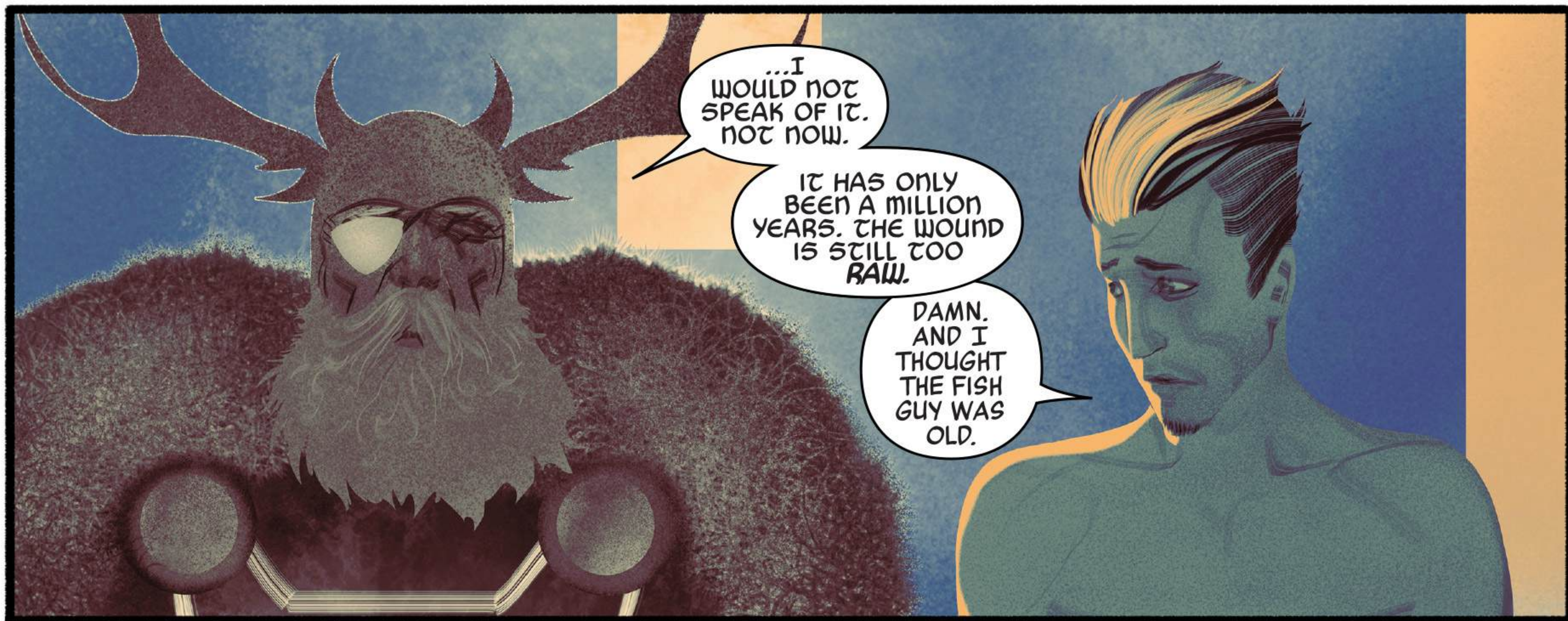
"WE RODE TOGETHER FOR MANY YEARS. ALONGSIDE THE REST OF OUR WONDROUS COMPATRIOTS. THE MIGHTIEST WARRIORS OF THE ANCIENT EARTH.

"MORTALS WHO WERE AS NOBLE AND POWERFUL AS GODS. AND ALSO A WIZARD.

"MANY GRAND AND GLORIOUS ADVENTURES DID WE SHARE IN THOSE SAVAGE, PRIMORDIAL DAYS.

"MANY FEARSOME FOES DID WE FACE IN SENSE-SHATTERING BATTLE. BATTLES THAT SHAPED THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT. QUITE LITERALLY.

"AS FOR WHAT ULTIMATELY BECAME OF THOSE GREAT HEROES OF MIDGARD'S DAWN..."



...I
WOULD NOT
SPEAK OF IT.
NOT NOW.

IT HAS ONLY
BEEN A MILLION
YEARS. THE WOUND
IS STILL TOO
RAW.

DAMN.
AND I
THOUGHT
THE FISH
GUY WAS
OLD.



AYE, I **AM**
OLD. TOO OLD TO
HAVE MADE SUCH A
DRUNKEN SPECTACLE OF
MYSELF THIS NIGHT.
PROMISE ME ONE
THING, RIDER.

PROMISE
YOU WON'T TELL
THE **PANTHER.**

ONLY IF
YOU PROMISE ME
WE'LL DO THIS AGAIN,
MR. ODIN. I WANNA
KNOW MORE ABOUT THE
RIDERS WHO'VE COME
BEFORE ME. THE
STARBRANDS,
TOO.

I WANNA
KNOW EVERYTHING.
ESPECIALLY THE
MISTAKES THEY ALL
MADE, ONES I CAN
HOPEFULLY
AVOID.

I'M WAY
TOO YOUNG
TO DIE
TWICE.



YOU'LL KNOW
FAR MORE ABOUT
THE STARBRAND SOON
ENOUGH, I WOULD IMAGINE.
FOR THIS REALM IS NEVER
LONG WITHOUT ONE,
ESPECIALLY IN TRYING
TIMES LIKE THESE.

LET US HOPE
THE BRAND CHOOSES
WISELY, THOUGH THAT HAS
NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE
CASE. OR ELSE YOUR RECENT
EXPERIENCE MAY PROVE
VALUABLE AFTER ALL,
YOUNG RIDER OF
LOS ANGELES.

EXPERIENCE?
EXPERIENCE IN
WHAT?



**KILLING
STARBRANDS.**

NOW COME,
BOY. THE
ALL-FATHER OF
ASGARD WOULD
ASK ONE MORE
FAVOR OF YOU
BEFORE I TAKE
MY LEAVE.

WAIT.
DON'T TELL
ME.



YES! I'VE
GOT A GOD AS
MY CO-PILOT!

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID THIS
CHARIOT WAS **FAST!**
I'VE RIDDEN **GOATS**
FASTER THAN
THIS!

YOUR FIRST
LESSON IN BEING A
RIDER, BOY...THE ONLY
FORCE THAT CAN SLOW YOU
DOWN IS **YOU!** IF YOU WISH
TO SURVIVE BEING A
HEL-DAMNED
MONSTROSITY...

...YOU'VE GOT
TO KNOW WHEN
TO GIVE THE
MONSTER **FREE**
REIN!

YOU WANT
MONSTER FAST, HUH?
WELL, HOLD ONTO YOUR
BUTT, VIKING SANTA, AND
I'LL DO YOU ONE
BETTER. THIS HERE...

...THIS IS
AVENGERS
FAST!

HA!
NOW THIS
IS MORE LIKE IT!
WE MAY MAKE A
SURVIVOR OF
YOU YET,
BOY!

I'VE NEVER
BEEN ANYTHING
ELSE.

MEANWHILE.
IN THE FAR REACHES
OF SPACE.

AAARRRGH!

IS THIS
REALLY THE
EXTENT OF YOUR
PLAN? TO DRAG ME INTO
THE OUTER REACHES
OF NOWHERE...AND
TORTURE ME?

UNTIL
THE FOLLY OF MY
FINAL HOSTS APOLOGIZE
FOR UNLEASHING THE
REST OF MY SPEND
PERFORMING THE
COSMIC COMMUNITY
SERVICE?

HMPH. I
SUPPOSE
I EXPECTED
A BIT MORE
IMAGINATION...

...FROM THE
CELESTIALS.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU THINK'S
COMING, LOKI. BUT
I'M HERE TO TELL
YA... YOU'RE
WRONG.
IT AIN'T
ALL GONNA
BE AS BAD AS
YA THINK.

I KNOW
WHY YOU
DID IT.

YOU? WHAT
IN THE HELL ARE
YOU DOING HERE?
HOW ARE YOU
POSSIBLY
HERE?

THE AVENGERS DON'T
HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL
TO KNOW WHY I DID
WHAT I DID! BUT YOU
LOT SHOULD!
YOU GIANT
BLOODY BASTARDS
SHOULD KNOW...

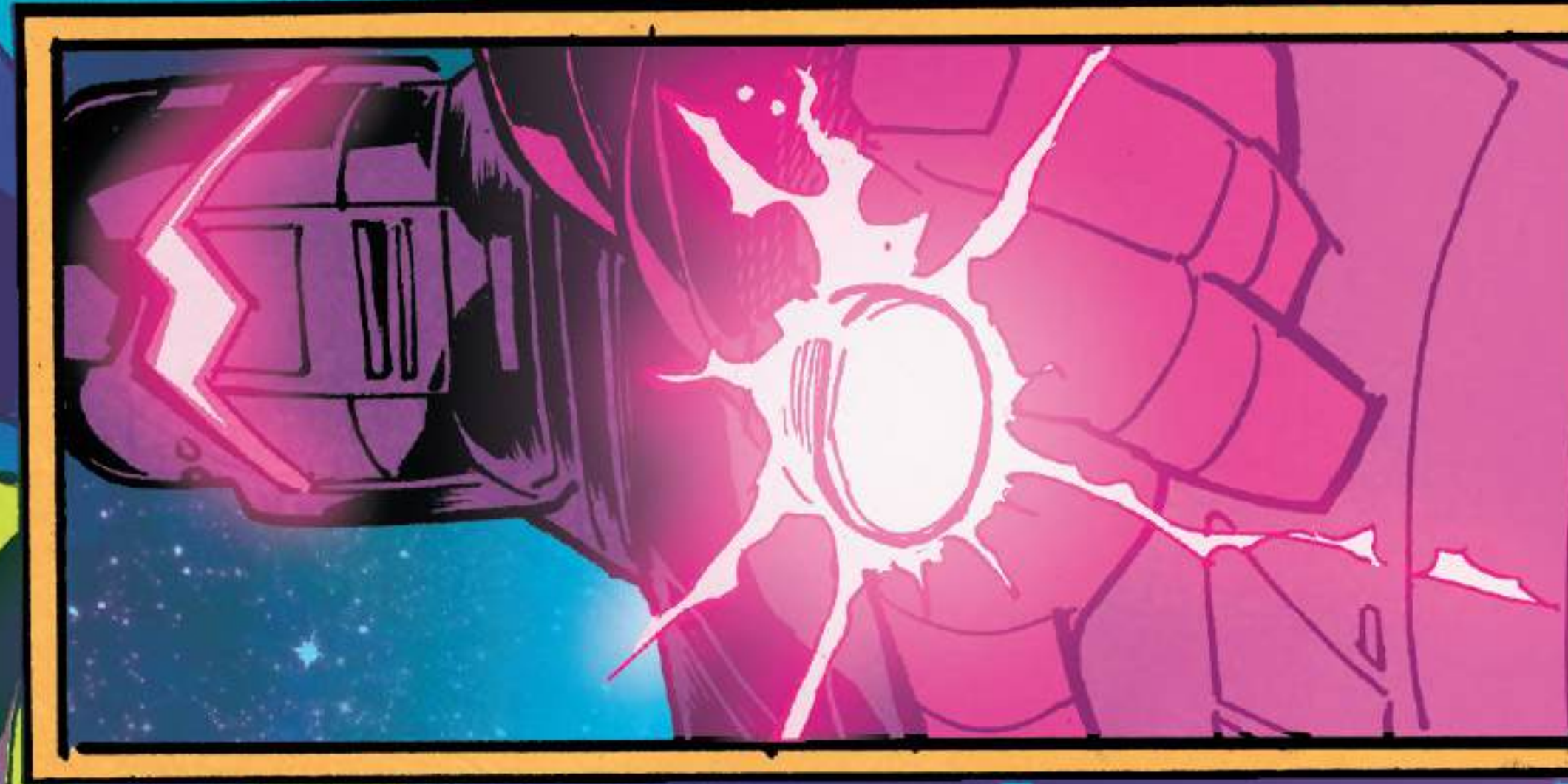
ABOUT THE WAR
THAT'S ON THE WAY...
THE WAR TO END ALL
THE REALMS...AND WITH
IT, THE RISE OF THE...

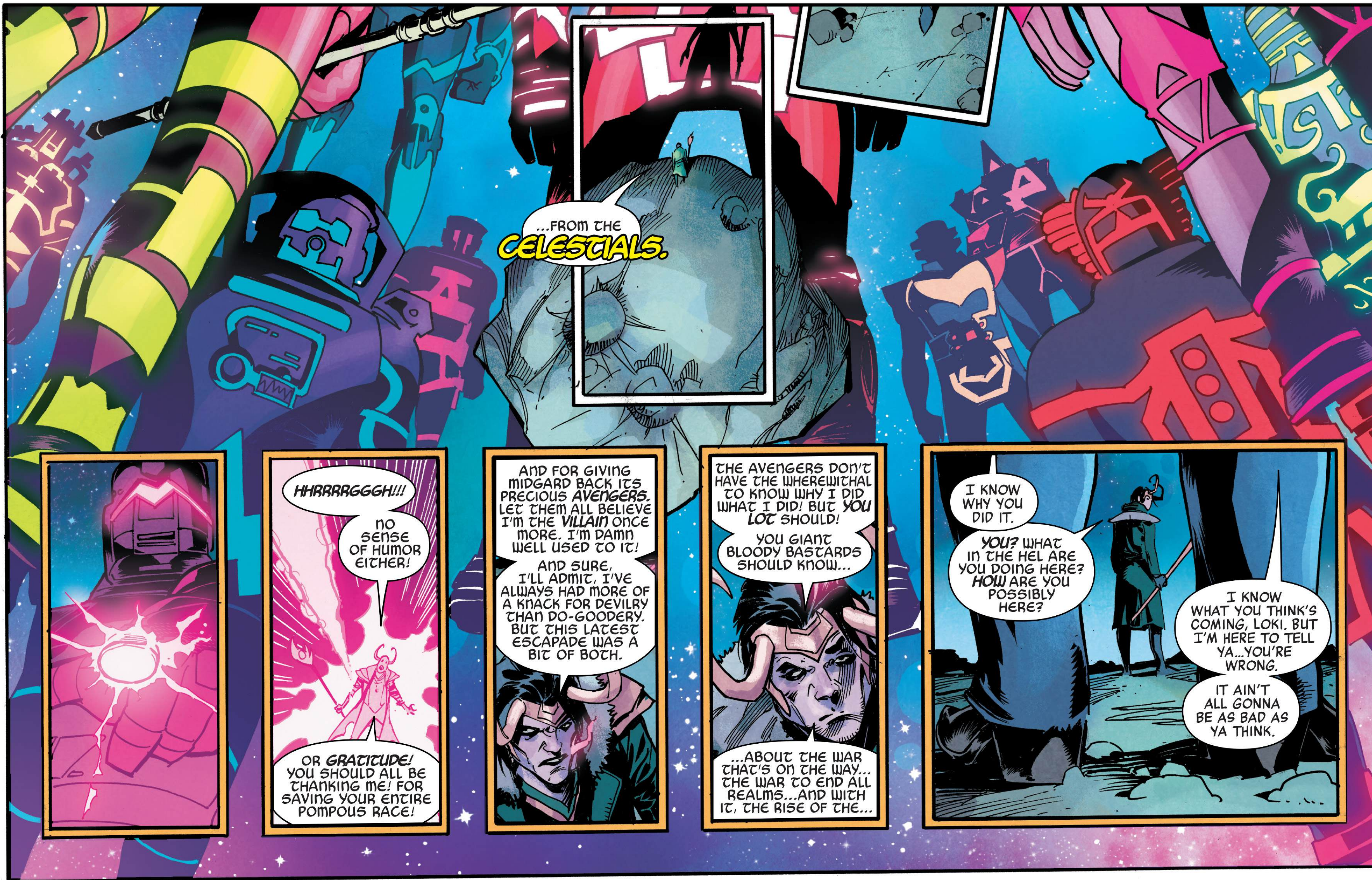
AND FOR GIVING
MIDGARD BACK IT'S
PRECIOUS AVENGERS.
LET THEM ALL BELIEVE
I'M THE VILLAIN ONCE
MORE. I'M DAMN
WELL USED TO IT!

AND SURE.
I'LL ADMIT I'VE
ALWAYS HAD MORE OF
A KNACK FOR DEVILRY
THAN DO-GOODERY.
BUT THIS LATEST
ESCAPADE WAS A
BIT OF BOCH.

HIARRRGH!!!
NO
SENSE
OF HUMOR
EITHER!

OR GRATITUDE!
YOU SHOULD ALL BE
THANKING ME! FOR
SAVING YOUR ENTIRE
POMPOUS RACE!





...FROM THE
CELESTIALS.

HRRRRGGGH!!!

no
sense
of humor
either!

OR GRATITUDE!
YOU SHOULD ALL BE
THANKING ME! FOR
SAVING YOUR ENTIRE
POMPUS RACE!

AND SURE,
I'LL ADMIT, I'VE
ALWAYS HAD MORE OF
A KNACK FOR DEVILRY
THAN DO-GOODERY.
BUT THIS LATEST
ESCAPE WAS A
BIT OF BOTH.

THE AVENGERS DON'T
HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL
TO KNOW WHY I DID
WHAT I DID! BUT YOU
LOT SHOULD!

YOU GIANT
BLOODY BASTARDS
SHOULD KNOW...

...ABOUT THE WAR
THAT'S ON THE WAY...
THE WAR TO END ALL
REALMS...AND WITH
IT, THE RISE OF THE...

I KNOW
WHY YOU
DID IT.

YOU? WHAT
IN THE HEL ARE
YOU DOING HERE?
HOW ARE YOU
POSSIBLY
HERE?

I KNOW
WHAT YOU THINK'S
COMING, LOKI. BUT
I'M HERE TO TELL
YA...YOU'RE
WRONG.

IT AIN'T
ALL GONNA
BE AS BAD AS
YA THINK.



IT'S GONNA
BE A HELLUVA
LOT WORSE.

WOLVERINE

YOU MEDDLING HALF-WIT. FIRST YOU BLOCK MY EFFORTS AT GATHERING THE INFINITY STONES, PURELY FOR *SAFEKEEPING*, OF COURSE--

RIGHT, THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

--THEN YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE JUST TO TAUNT ME. I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CANADIAN.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M ACTUALLY HERE TO HELP YA, BUB.

AND LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD SURE USE SOME RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

HEY, 'SHEM. WE STILL GOT A DEAL, BIG GUY?

DON'T BE A FOOL. A MERE MORTAL CANNOT CONVERSE WITH THE LIKES OF...

THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE.

FOR YOUR SAKE, YOU DAMN WELL BETTER HOPE NOT.

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT COSMIC MATTERS OF THIS SORT ARE USUALLY FAR ABOVE YOUR HAIRY LITTLE PAY GRADE.

YEAH, I RECKON THAT USED TO BE THE CASE, BUT THE *EONS* DO FUNNY THINGS TO A MAN, DON'T THEY?

EONS? BUT YOU'RE NOT...

FROM AROUND HERE? NO, I AIN'T.

BUT THIS RIGHT HERE'S WHAT WE CALL A PERIOD OF PROFOUND COSMIC SIGNIFICANCE.

SCRUNCH!

THAT WATERY MUDBALL WE LOVE NEEDS ALL HER *COSMIC DEFENSE* SYSTEMS ON DECK. SO HERE I AM, MAKING DEALS WITH SPACE GODS.

WHAT DEAL? WHAT IS THIS?

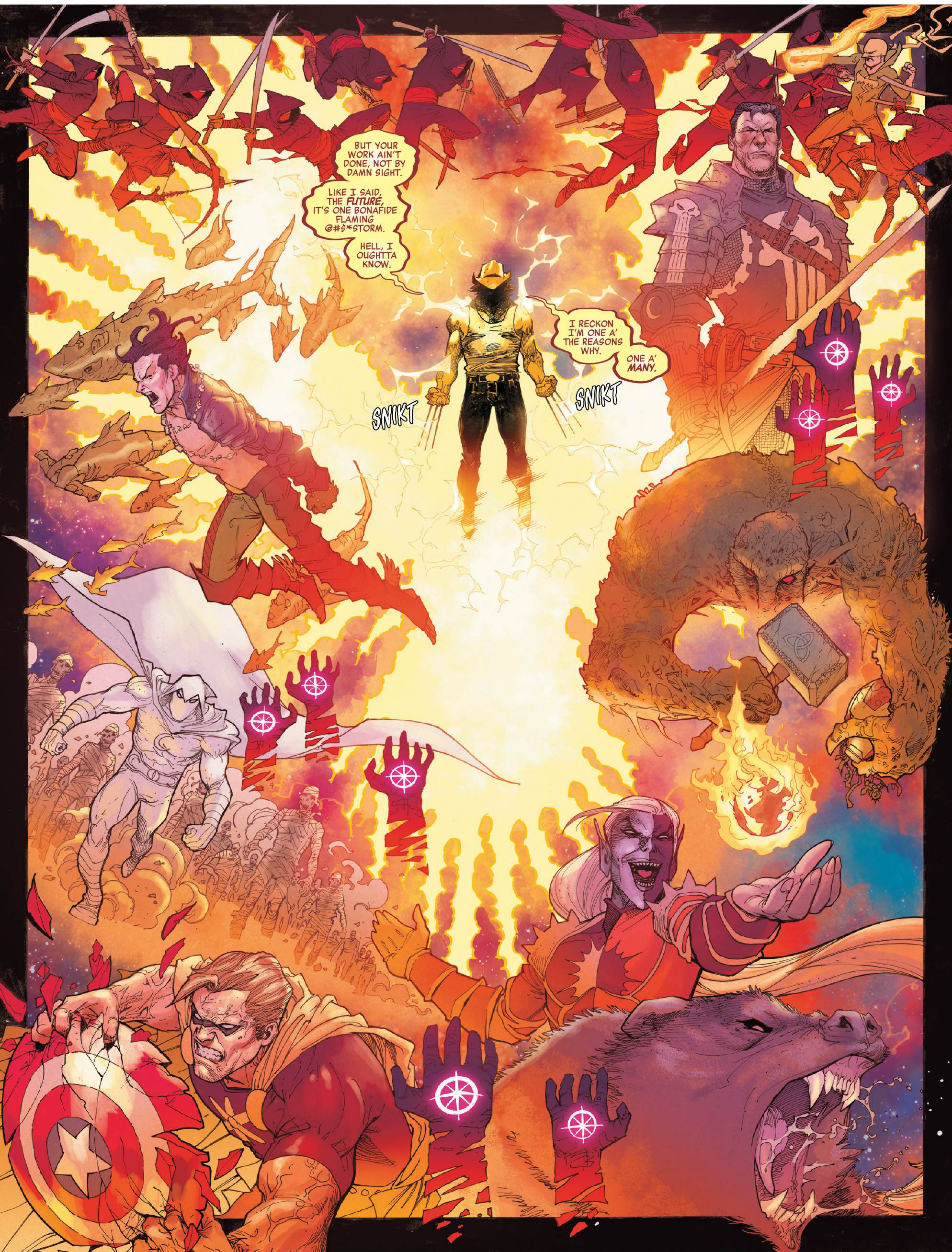
IT'S A *TRADE*. I TOLD THESE HERE CELESTIALS I COULD HELP THEM BURN THAT HORDE INFECTION RIGHT OUTTA THEIR *FINAL HOST* BUDDIES.

IN EXCHANGE FOR YOU.

ONLY PROBLEM IS... I GOT NO INTENTION OF HELPING 'EM. AIN'T MY PLACE, AND I THINK THEY JUST FIGURED THAT OUT.

SO GET READY TO RUN WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL.

YOU DONE GOOD WORK GETTING THE AVENGERS BACK TOGETHER, LOKI LAUFEYSON.



BUT YOUR
WORK AIN'T
DONE, NOT BY
DAMN SIGHT.

LIKE I SAID,
THE *FUTURE*,
IT'S ONE BONAFIDE
FLAMING
@#&*STORM.

HELL, I
OUGHTTA
KNOW.

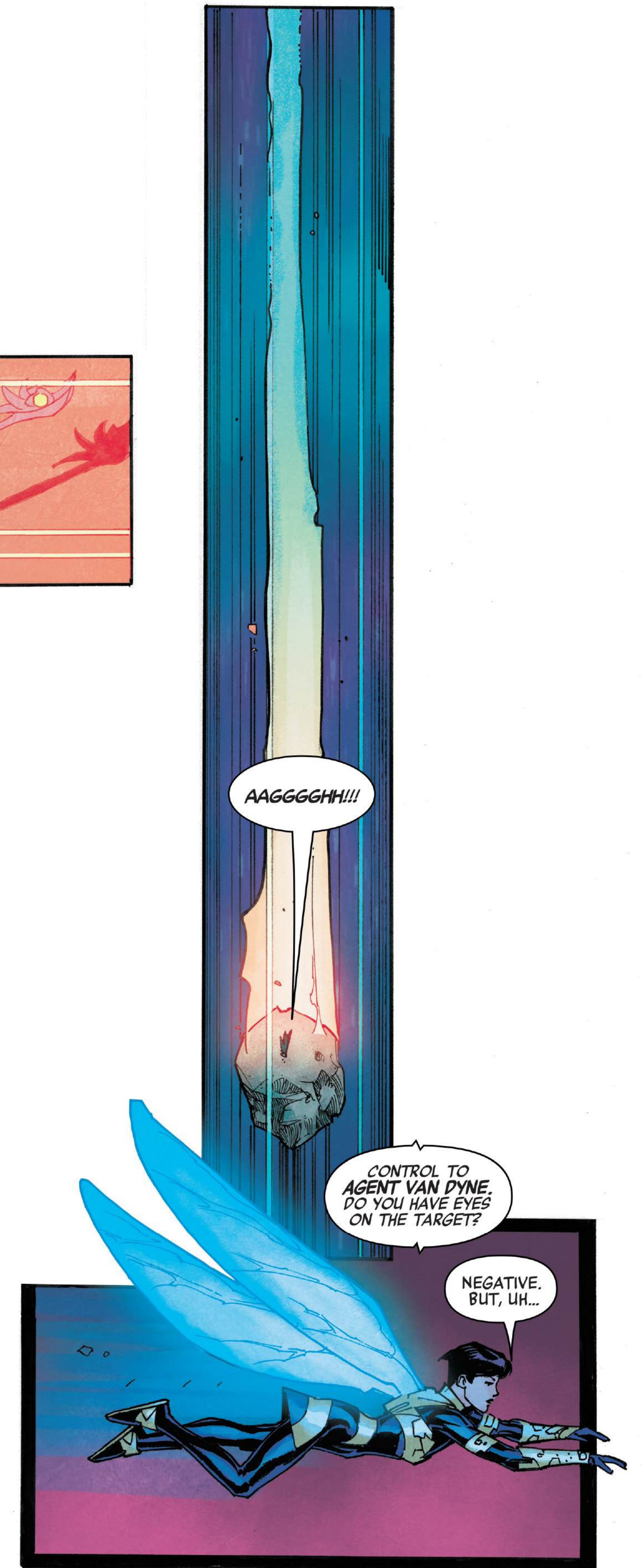
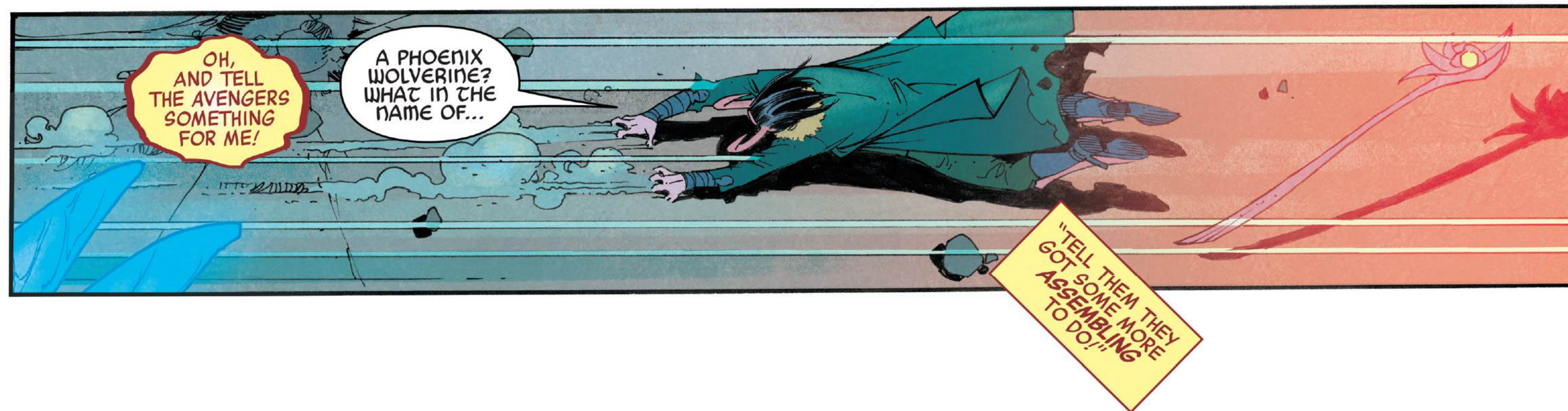
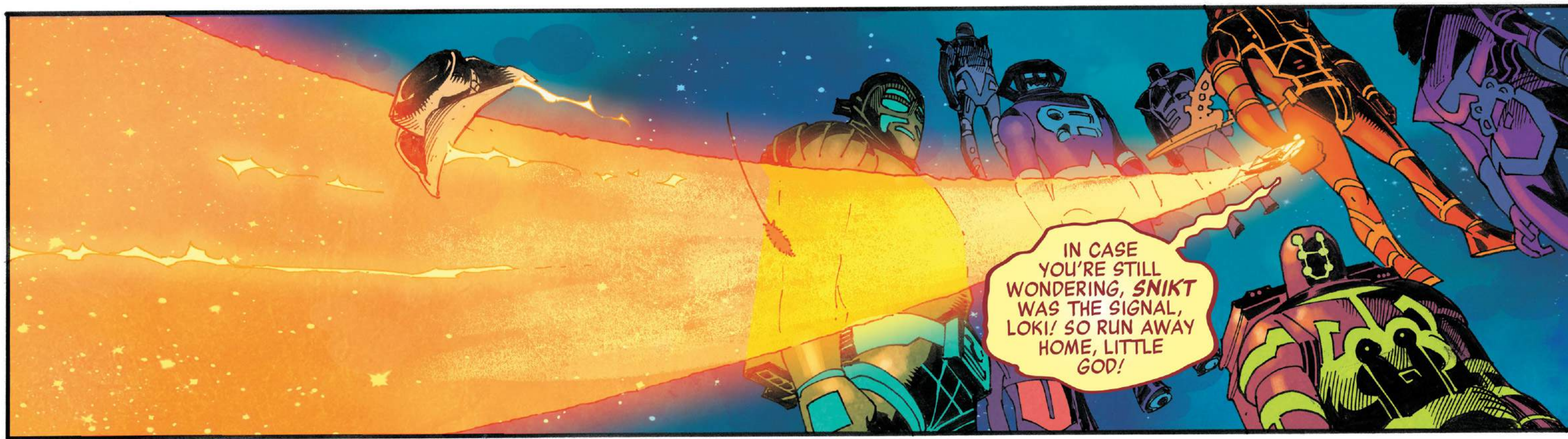
I RECKON
I'M ONE A'
THE REASONS
WHY.

ONE A'
MANY.

SNIKT

SNIKT

104
WOLVERINE





...THERE ARE A FEW SOMETHINGS THAT DEFINITELY HAVE EYES ON ME!

IF YOU'VE BEEN SPOTTED, ABORT AT ONCE AND GET TO YOUR EXTRACTION POINT.

YEAH, THAT'S NOT HAPPENING. NOT WHILE I STILL HAVE MY STINGER BLASTS.



IF YOU WANTED SOMEBODY WHO'D CUT AND RUN AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE, YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE HIRED A **FOUNDING AVENGER**.



THE GUARD BATS HAVE SPOTTED SOMETHING! AN INTRUDER! SOUND THE ALARM!

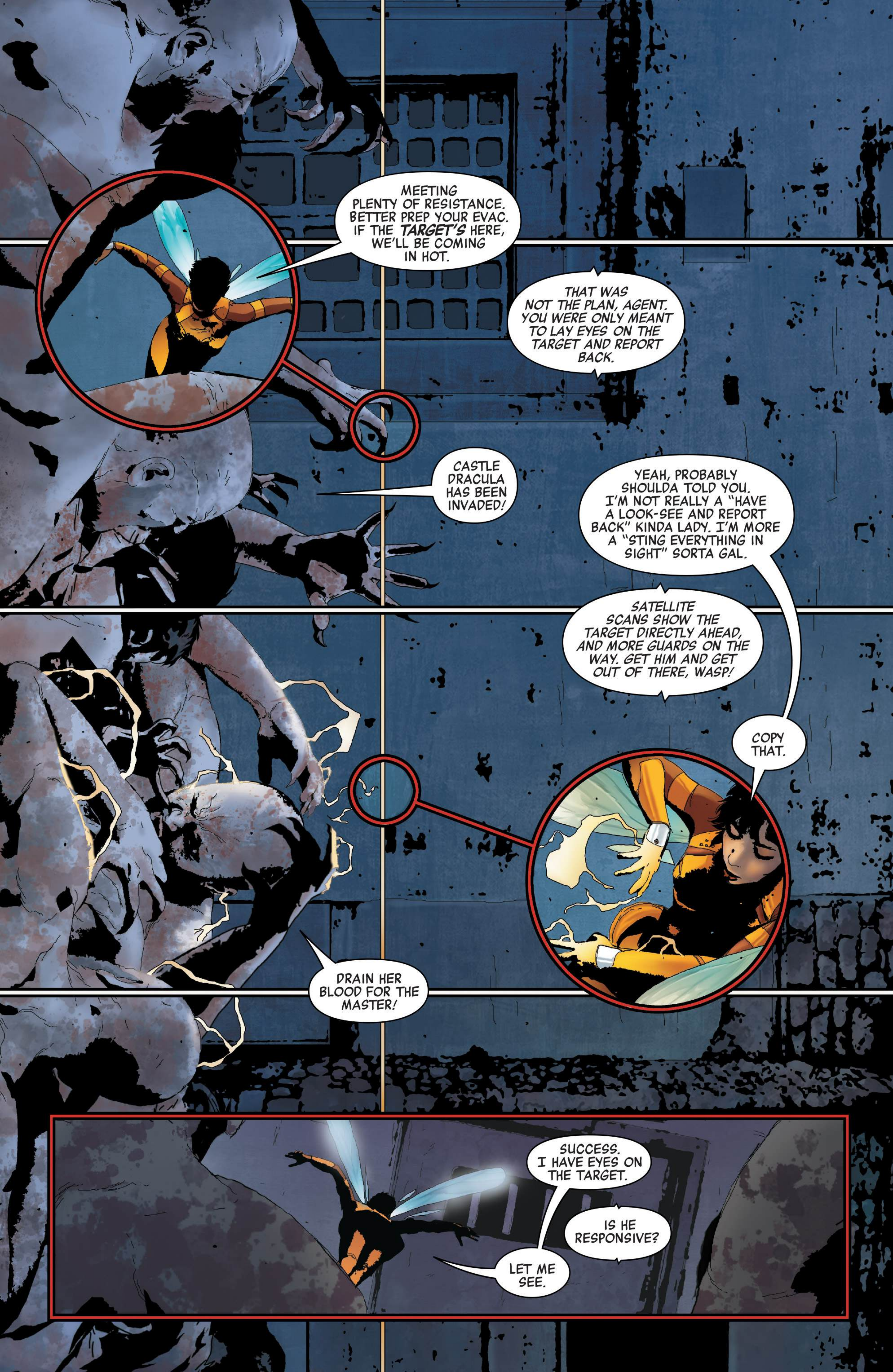
JUST KNOW THAT THE AVENGERS ARE BUSY IN THE PACIFIC RIGHT NOW, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER AGENTS AVAILABLE TO BACK YOU UP.

UNDERSTOOD. THIS IS **WASP**, AGENT OF WAKANDA...



...GOING IN.

ROMANIA.
THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS.
THE REGION ONCE KNOWN AS TRANSYLVANIA.



MEETING
PLENTY OF RESISTANCE.
BETTER PREP YOUR EVAC.
IF THE **TARGET'S** HERE,
WE'LL BE COMING
IN HOT.

THAT WAS
NOT THE PLAN, AGENT.
YOU WERE ONLY MEANT
TO LAY EYES ON THE
TARGET AND REPORT
BACK.

CASTLE
DRACULA
HAS BEEN
INVADED!

YEAH, PROBABLY
SHOULDA TOLD YOU.
I'M NOT REALLY A "HAVE
A LOOK-SEE AND REPORT
BACK" KINDA LADY. I'M MORE
A "STING EVERYTHING IN
SIGHT" SORTA GAL.

SATELLITE
SCANS SHOW THE
TARGET DIRECTLY AHEAD,
AND MORE GUARDS ON THE
WAY. GET HIM AND GET
OUT OF THERE, WASP!

COPY
THAT.

DRAIN HER
BLOOD FOR THE
MASTER!



SUCCESS.
I HAVE EYES ON
THE TARGET.

IS HE
RESPONSIVE?

LET ME
SEE.

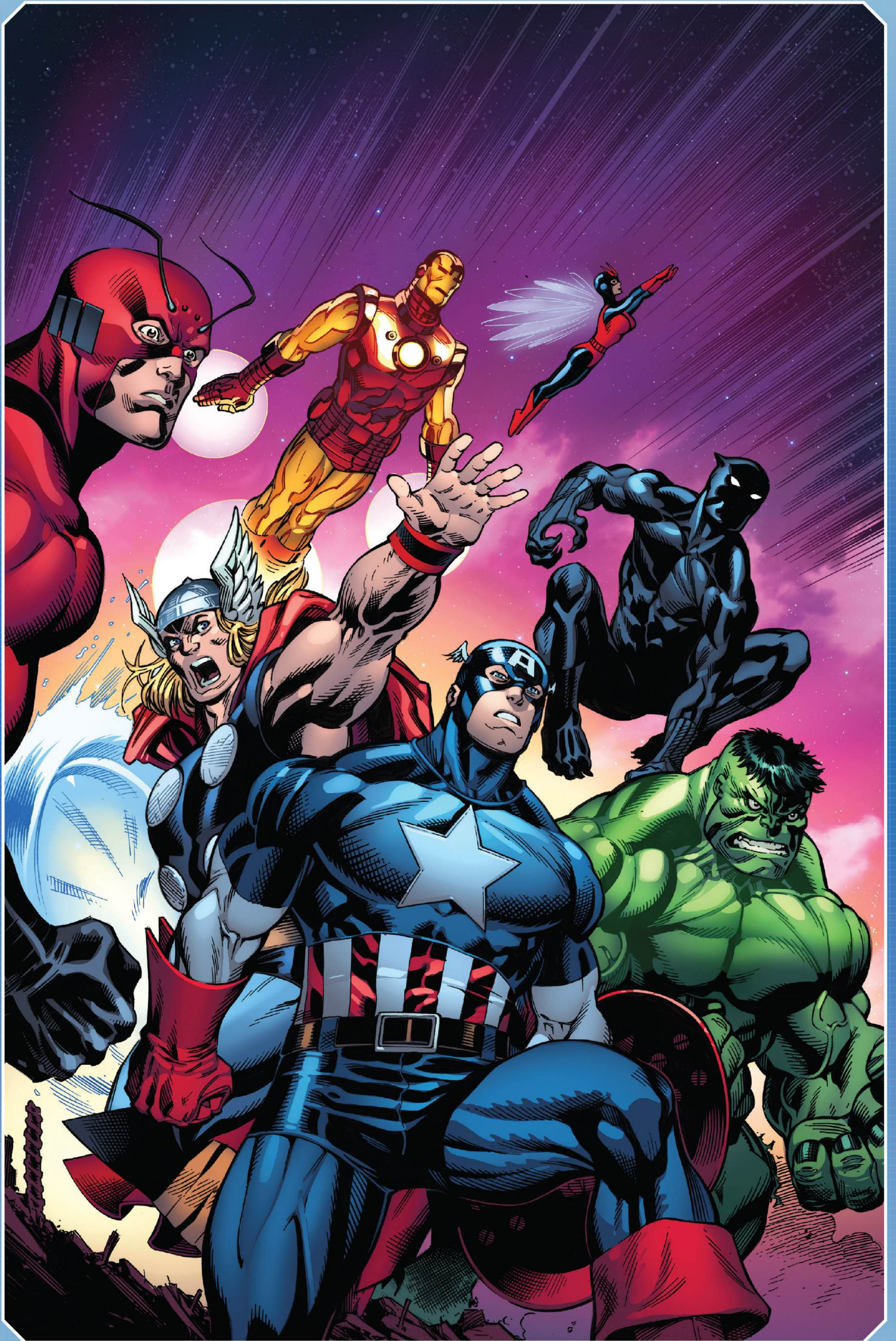


HEY,
BLADE

HOW'D
YOU LIKE TO
JOIN THE
AVENGERS?

GET
ME MY
SWORDS.

GOOD
ANSWER.



ED McGUINNESS & MARTE GRACIA
10 CLASSIC AVENGERS VARIANT

11 THE STRENGTH AND CONVICTION OF PHILLIP COULSON



PHIL COULSON.
FORMER AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.

I
IDOLIZED
THEM.

ALL OF
THEM.

EVEN THE
ONES YOU'VE
NEVER HEARD
OF.

TO
SUCH AN
OBSESSIVE
DEGREE.

WHEN I WAS
A KID, I USED TO
MAKE LITTLE NOTE
CARDS, CHARTING THEIR
POWERS AND MY
EDUCATED GUESSES
AT THEIR ORIGINS.

SO
EMBARRASSING.

I SPENT SO
MUCH MONEY OVER
THE YEARS ON...VINTAGE
CAPTAIN AMERICA
TRADING CARDS.

I'M ONLY
TELLING YOU THIS
NOW BECAUSE I KNOW
YOU'LL NEVER TELL
ANYONE ELSE.

AND
BESIDES...I
DON'T IDOLIZE
SUPER HEROES
ANYMORE. I
GREW UP...

...ABOUT
FIVE SECONDS
BEFORE I
DIED.

ALL THAT
ADORATION BLEED
RIGHT OUTTA ME.
THROUGH THE GAPING
BULLET WOUND IN
MY CHEST.



HE EVEN
MURDERED MY
CAR. WHAT A
SICK, SICK
LITTLE MAN.

WHEREVER
YOU ARE,
DEADPOOL, I
OWE YOU FOR
MY LOLA.

BUT I SHOULD
BE **THANKFUL** TOO,
I KNOW. BECAUSE IF
I HADN'T DIED AS PART
OF SOME RIDICULOUS
SUPER HERO WAR, I
WOULDN'T HAVE
SEEN THE LIGHT.

I WOULDN'T BE
WHERE I AM TODAY,
WITH THE STRENGTH AND
CONVICTION TO DO WHAT
NEEDS TO BE DONE TO
PROTECT THIS
COUNTRY.

THOUGH I
SUPPOSE THAT
DOESN'T ANSWER
YOUR QUESTION,
DOES IT?

WHAT YOU
REALLY WANT TO
KNOW IS...WHY AM
I HOLDING THIS
GUN?

AND
WHY AM I
ABOUT TO POINT
IT AT YOUR FACE
AND PULL THE
TRIGGER?

THE
ANSWER IS
SIMPLE.

"BECAUSE OF
THE AVENGERS."

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.

SO YOU'RE
SAYING YOU'VE
NEVER *ONCE*
CHANGED THE
OIL IN THIS
THING?

I'M SAYING
I TRIED TO ONE
TIME, AND THE CAR
NEARLY BIT MY ARM
OFF. I REALLY WOULDN'T
GO POKING AROUND
UNDER THAT HOOD
IF I WERE YOU,
MS. CAROL.

I SLEEP IN
THE SAME MOUNTAIN
AS THIS THING. IF
YOUR *HELL CHARGER'S*
EXHAUST IS POISON OR
ITS GLOVE COMPARTMENT
IS A GATEWAY TO HELL,
I'D REALLY LIKE
TO KNOW.

IT'S THE
TRUNK THAT'S
THE GATEWAY
TO HELL.

OKAY, SEE,
NOW YOU'RE BEING
HELPFUL. YOU'RE AN
AVENGER, *ROBBIE REYES*,
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN
A WORKING HELL PORTAL
MIGHT COME IN
HANDY.

I COULD
USE ONE RIGHT
ABOUT NOW. I NEVER
KNEW BEING AN AVENGER
WOULD COME WITH SO
MUCH *HOMEWORK*.

HEH. YEAH,
I REMEMBER
STEVE'S SUPER VILLAIN
RECOGNITION
QUIZZES.

STILT MAN.
HIS BATTLE SUIT'S
TELESCOPIC LEGS
CONTAIN POWERFUL
HYDRAULIC RAMS.
WEAKNESS: HE'S
ON STILTS.

BELIEVE IT
OR NOT, THOSE
QUIZZES HAVE PROBABLY
SAVED MY HIDE MORE THAN
ONCE. SO STUDY LIKE
YOUR LIFE DEPENDS
ON IT, KID.

BECAUSE
IT DOES.

IS THAT A
CARBURETOR
OR AN EGG SAC?
OR MAYBE
BOTH?

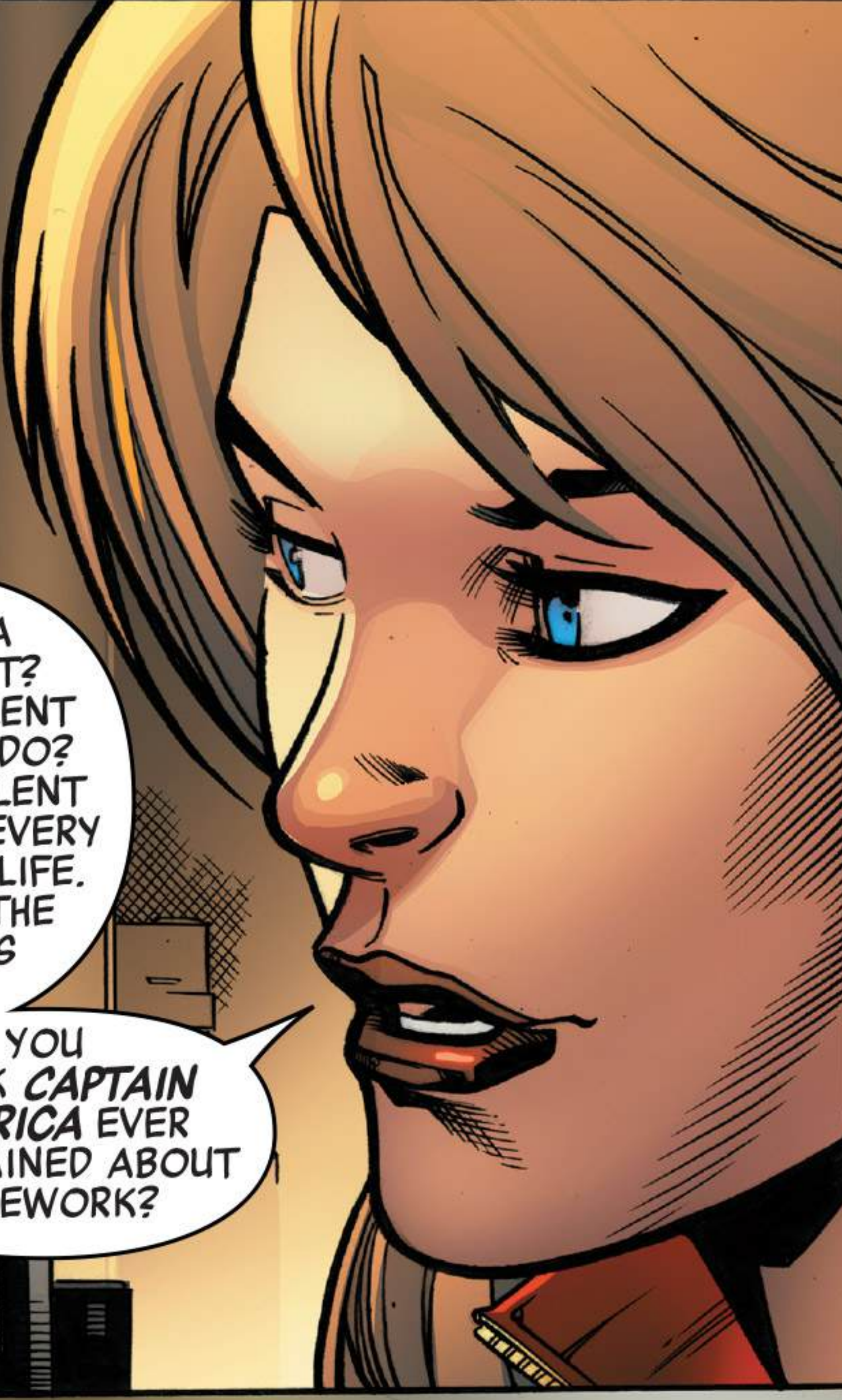
YEAH, BUT I ALREADY...

DO NOT EVEN SAY IT! I DON'T WANNA HEAR AGAIN ABOUT HOW YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY DEFEATED THE FINAL HOST!

YOU SAVED THE WORLD *ONE TIME*, KID. CONGRATULATIONS. I BET EVEN *SPIDER-MAN* HAS SAVED THE WORLD MORE THAN YOU.

YOU WANNA BE EXCELLENT? REALLY EXCELLENT AT WHAT YOU DO? THEN BE EXCELLENT *EVERY DAY*, IN EVERY PART OF YOUR LIFE. THAT'S HOW THE GREAT ONES DO IT.

YOU THINK *CAPTAIN AMERICA* EVER COMPLAINED ABOUT HOMEWORK?



MEPHISTO. WHY DOES THAT NAME SOUND FAMILIAR?

GAGGH, CAN'T WE JUST GO FIGHT THE FISH PEOPLE AGAIN? WHERE *IS* EVERYBODY ELSE ANYWAY?

BLACK PANTHER IS HAVING A BIG IMPORTANT MEETING UPSTAIRS. DO NOT DISTURB HIM.

OUR HOUSE-GUEST *BLADE* IS STILL RECUPERATING IN THE INFIRMARY. HE'S A *VAMPIRE*. I WOULDN'T DISTURB HIM EITHER.

IF *TONY* WERE HERE, I'D GLADLY LET YOU DISTURB HIM ALL YOU LIKE, BUT HE AND STEVE ARE OFF HANDLING TONY AND STEVE BUSINESS.

AND I'M ABOUT TO GO HAVE A CONFERENCE CALL WITH EIGHT DIFFERENT INTERGALACTIC LEADERS, SO SORRY, YOU CAN'T DISTURB ME EITHER.

WASN'T THERE A TALKING GORILLA SWINGING AROUND HERE THE OTHER DAY? OR HEY, WHAT ABOUT *THOR* AND *HULK*?

UH, YEAH, THEY'RE...OFF ON A...SUPER-SECRET MISSION.

HIT THE BOOKS WHILE YOU CAN, *GHOST RIDER*. DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE THE NEXT MAJOR DISASTER WILL BE COMING ALONG...

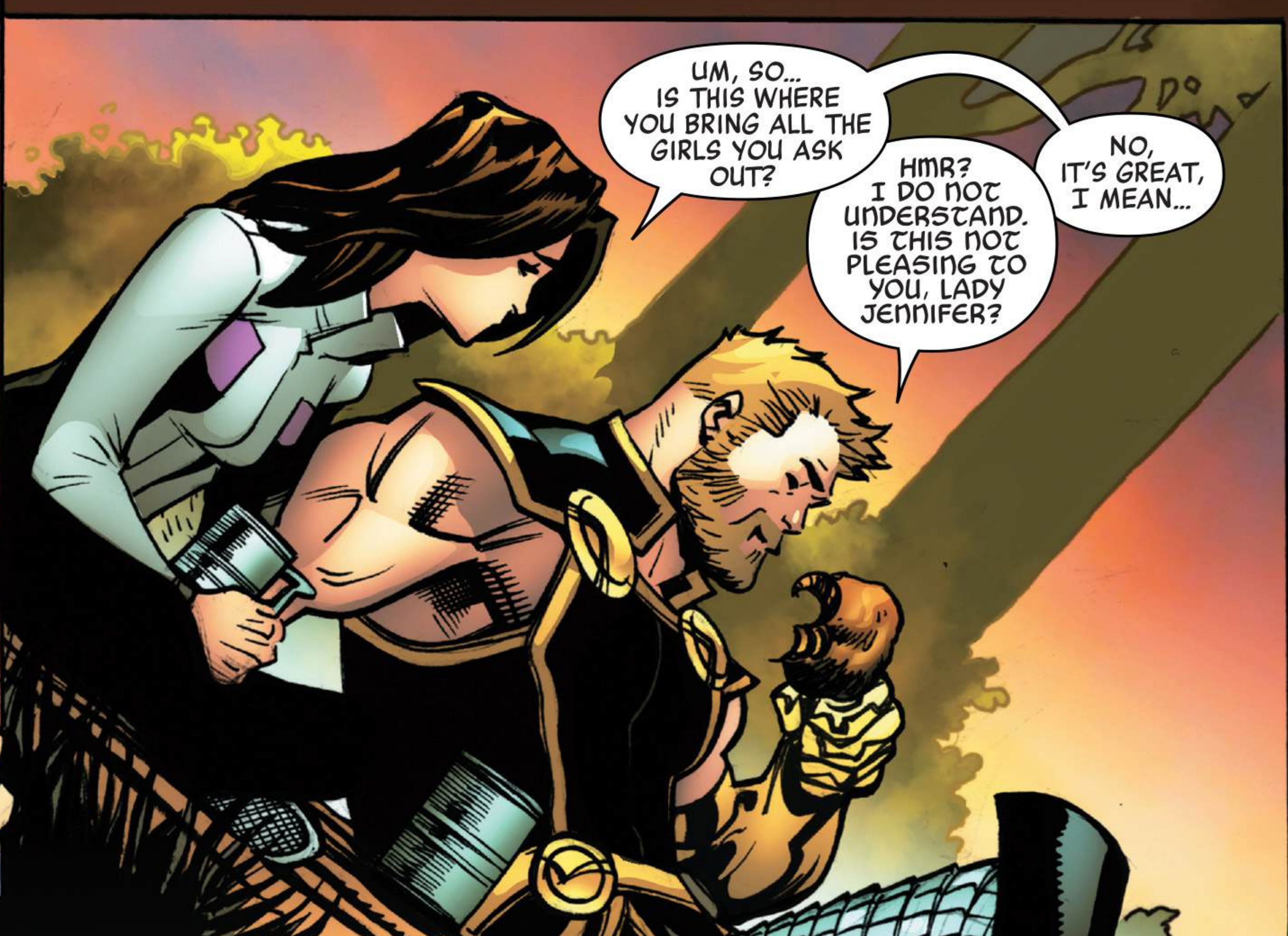


"...ANY SECOND NOW."



MORE MEAD?

UH, NO. NO, I'M GOOD ON MEAD.



UM, SO... IS THIS WHERE YOU BRING ALL THE GIRLS YOU ASK OUT?

HMR? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. IS THIS NOT PLEASING TO YOU, LADY JENNIFER?

NO, IT'S GREAT, I MEAN...

...WHO DOESN'T WANNA GO ON A DATE IN THE SAVAGE LAND?

ARE THERE NOT ENOUGH BATTLE DRAGONS? I COULD HAVE KA-ZAR SUMMON MORE IF YOU...

NO, IT'S A FINE AMOUNT OF...BATTLE DRAGONS. JUST FINE.

TURKEY LEGS, MEAD AND DINOSAURS. SUPPOSE I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT'S WHAT A DATE WITH THOR WOULD BE LIKE.

I'M STARTING TO SEE WHY YOU'VE BEEN SINGLE FOR SO MANY CENTURIES.

HA! THOR HAS A GRAND IDEA! LET US GIVE MEAD TO THE DRAGONS!

FINAL HOST...PLEASE COME BACK.



AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
THE EDEN ROOM.

I DON'T
NEED TO TELL YOU
THAT THESE ARE TIMES
OF UNPARALLELED DANGER
AND DIVISION FOR OUR
PLANET. YOU ALL KNOW
THAT BETTER THAN
ANYONE.

THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE HERE. AND
WHY YOU'RE THE
GREATEST HEROES
THIS WORLD HAS
TO OFFER.

I THANK YOU
FOR ACCEPTING MY
INVITATION TO THIS *INTERNATIONAL
SUPER-SUMMIT*. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT
TODAY CAN BE THE BEGINNING OF
A NEW AGE OF *COOPERATION*
BETWEEN US ALL.

THEN WHY
DON'T YOU START,
T'CHALLA, BY TELLING
US HOW YOU CONVINCED
STARK TO PROVIDE THE
WAITSTAFF?

NO CONVINCING
REQUIRED, *SHAMAN*. TONY
SHOULD NOT LEAVE HIS
LAUNDRY LAYING AROUND
IF HE DOES NOT WISH ME
TO PUT IT TO USE.

PLEASE...EAT,
DRINK. THIS NEED NOT
BE A FORMAL AFFAIR. WE
ARE ALL COLLEAGUES
HERE.

IF WE ARE
GOING TO CONTINUE
IN OUR CHOSEN PROFESSION
OF SAVING THIS WORLD FROM
THOSE WHO WOULD DO IT
HARM, OR OFTENTIMES
FROM ITSELF...

...THEN IT IS
MY HUMBLE OPINION
THAT WE MUST ALL
MAKE A MORE CONCERTED
EFFORT TO REACH
BEYOND OUR COUNTRIES'
BORDERS AND WORK
TOGETHER.

AND THAT
BEGINS WITH
ME.

AS KING
OF WAKANDA AND
NEWLY ELECTED *CHAIRMAN*
OF THE AVENGERS, I WANT TO
PROMISE YOU ALL HERE TODAY...
THAT MY RESOURCES WILL
ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE
TO MY ALLIES.



THOSE ARE
QUITE CONSIDERABLE
RESOURCES, YOUR HIGHNESS.
FROM THE **VIBRANIUM** MINES
OF WAKANDA TO THIS IMPRESSIVE
NEW HEADQUARTERS WE SEE
AROUND US, TEEMING WITH
CELESTIAL TECHNOLOGY.

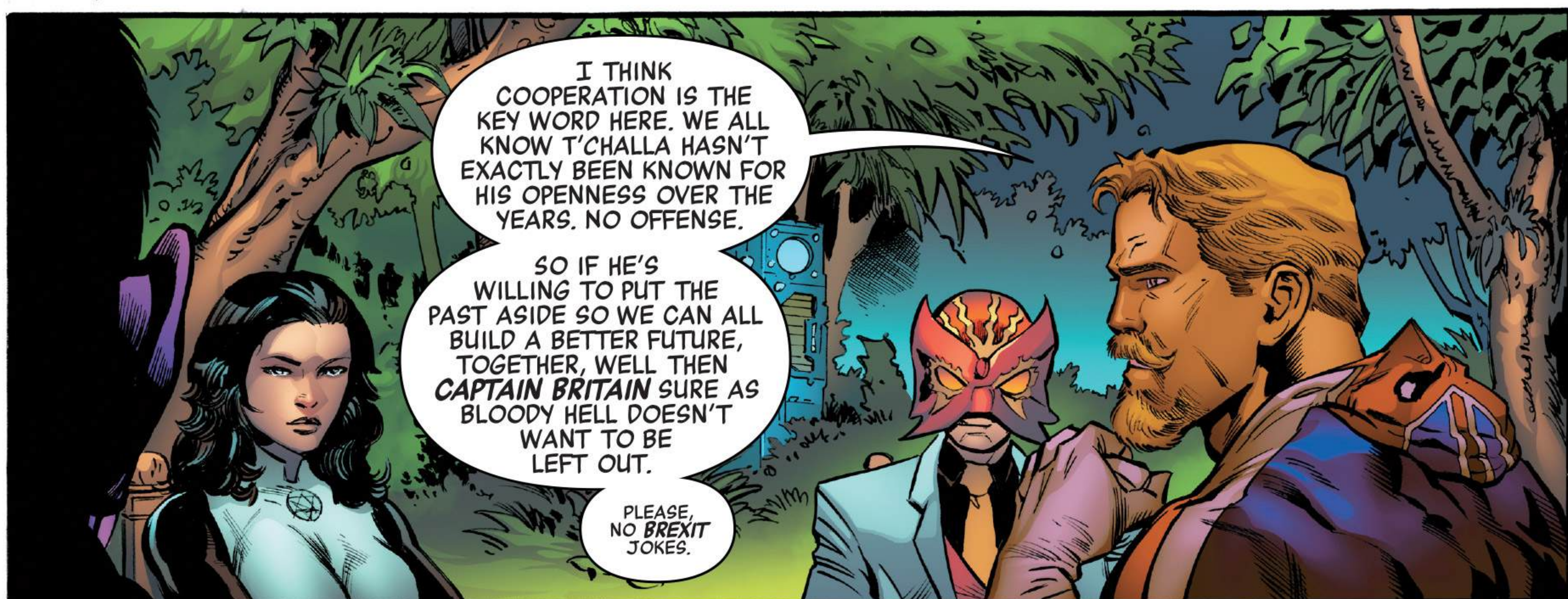
NOT TO
MENTION THE
CLANDESTINE NETWORK
OF SPECIAL AGENTS
WE ALL HEAR YOU'VE
BEEN BUILDING.

SO PLEASE,
DO TELL US, WHAT
DOES IT TAKE TO BE AN
ALLY OF THE NEWLY
ANointed **KING OF
THE AVENGERS?**



FOR YEARS,
WE ALL RELIED IN
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
ON THE SPRAWLING, GLOBAL
INFRASTRUCTURE OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.**
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THAT
INFRASTRUCTURE HAS SINCE
BEEN DISMANTLED.

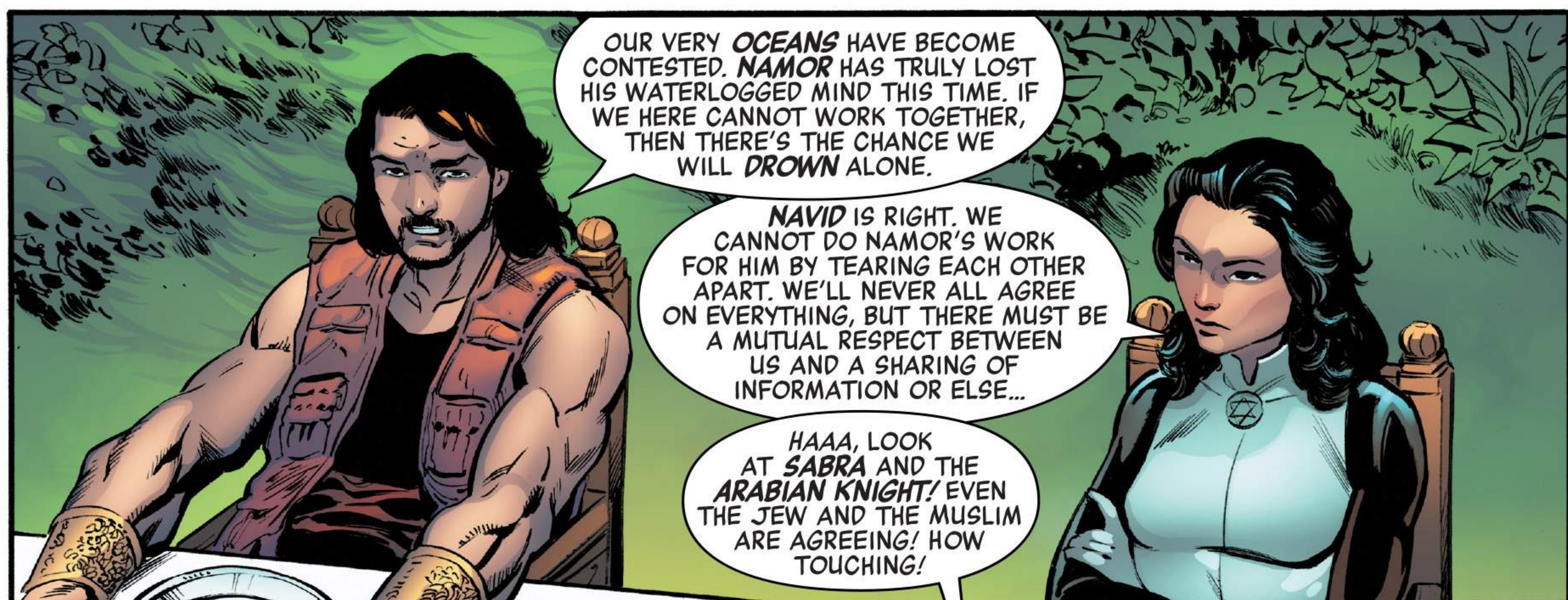
I AM NOT
TRYING TO RE-CREATE
S.H.I.E.L.D., BUT MERELY
TO BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK
FOR THE AVENGERS. AND FOR
ALL HEROES WHO FIGHT THE
SAME FIGHT. LIKE YOU,
SUNFIRE OF JAPAN.



I THINK
COOPERATION IS THE
KEY WORD HERE. WE ALL
KNOW T'CHALLA HASN'T
EXACTLY BEEN KNOWN FOR
HIS OPENNESS OVER THE
YEARS. NO OFFENSE.

SO IF HE'S
WILLING TO PUT THE
PAST ASIDE SO WE CAN ALL
BUILD A BETTER FUTURE,
TOGETHER, WELL THEN
CAPTAIN BRITAIN SURE AS
BLOODY HELL DOESN'T
WANT TO BE
LEFT OUT.

PLEASE,
NO **BREXIT**
JOKES.



OUR VERY **OCEANS** HAVE BECOME
CONTESTED. **NAMOR** HAS TRULY LOST
HIS WATERLOGGED MIND THIS TIME. IF
WE HERE CANNOT WORK TOGETHER,
THEN THERE'S THE CHANCE WE
WILL **DROWN** ALONE.

NAVID IS RIGHT. WE
CANNOT DO **NAMOR'S** WORK
FOR HIM BY TEARING EACH OTHER
APART. WE'LL NEVER ALL AGREE
ON EVERYTHING, BUT THERE MUST BE
A MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN
US AND A SHARING OF
INFORMATION OR ELSE...

HAAA, LOOK
AT **SABRA** AND THE
ARABIAN KNIGHT! EVEN
THE JEW AND THE MUSLIM
ARE AGREEING! HOW
TOUCHING!



HOW DAMNED PATHETIC.

THE PANTHER DANGLES HIS SHINY TOYS IN FRONT OF YOU LOT, AND YOU ALL START LINING UP TO KISS HIS VIBRANIUM RING.

COME PUT YOUR HAND NEAR MY MOUTH, KITTY CAT, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO IT.

THE WINTER GUARD DOESN'T NEED YOUR HELP OR YOUR INTEL. AND WE SURE AS HELL AREN'T ABOUT TO GIVE YOU OURS.



BE WARY. THE BEAR IS QUITE DRUNK.

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, **URSA MAJOR**, THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF TERRITORIAL THINKING THAT LED TO OUR TWO GROUPS CLASHING DURING THE FIGHT TO SAVE **HYDROPOLIS**.

I FAIL TO SEE HOW AN ONGOING ADVERSARIAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO EITHER THE WINTER GUARD OR THE AVENGERS. ESPECIALLY AS NAMOR'S ATTACKS CONTINUE.

DETAILS ARE SKETCHY, BUT JUST THREE DAYS AGO THERE WAS YET ANOTHER INCIDENT, OFF THE COAST OF **ALASKA**, WHERE...

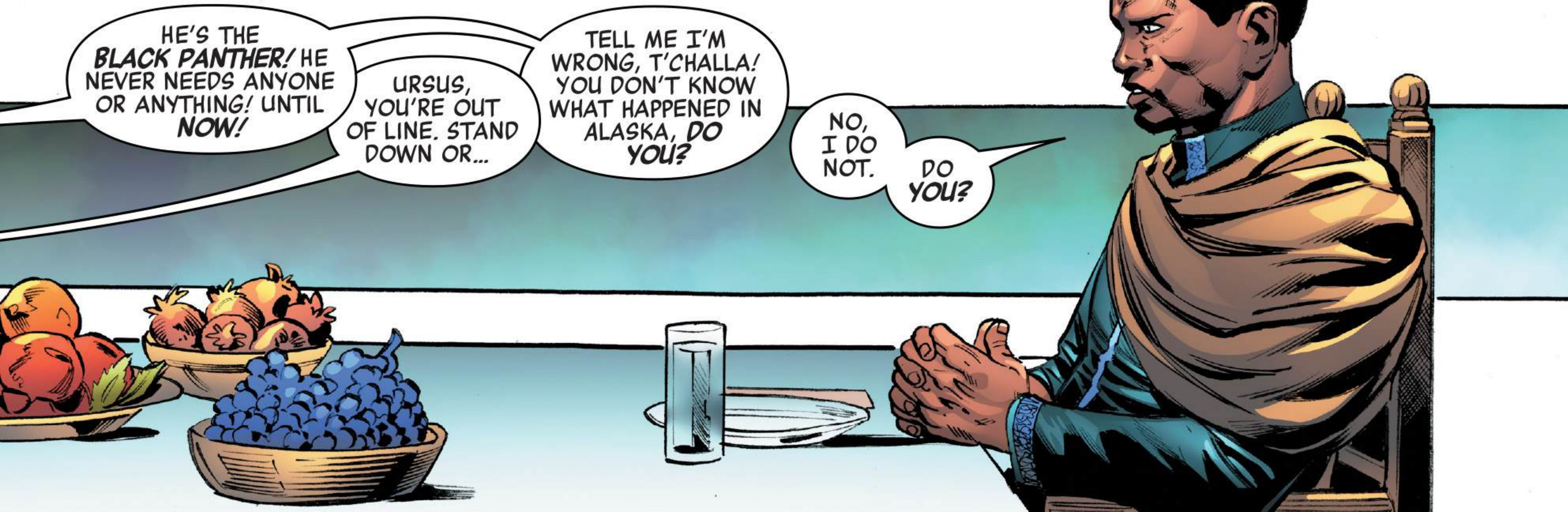
AHAA!



SO NOW WE FINALLY COME TO IT! YOU DIDN'T BRING US HERE JUST TO BASK IN YOUR CORONATION AND EAT A FEW SCRAPS FROM YOUR TABLE! YOU **NEED** SOMETHING FROM US.

NO, HE DOESN'T!

MAJOR **URSUS**, HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING? WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER HERE.



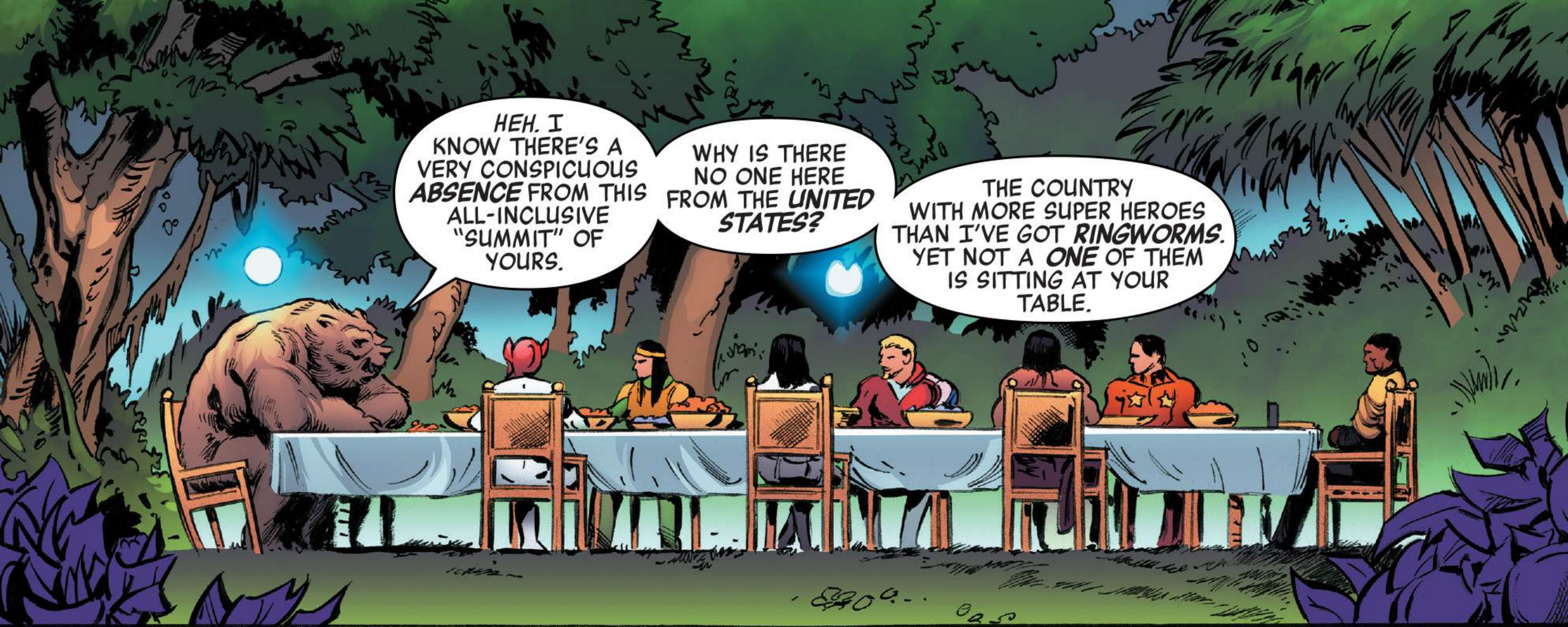
HE'S THE **BLACK PANTHER**! HE NEVER NEEDS ANYONE OR ANYTHING! UNTIL **NOW**!

URSUS, YOU'RE OUT OF LINE. STAND DOWN OR...

TELL ME I'M WRONG, T'CHALLA! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN **ALASKA**, DO YOU?

NO, I DO NOT.

DO YOU?



HEH. I KNOW THERE'S A VERY CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE FROM THIS ALL-INCLUSIVE "SUMMIT" OF YOURS.

WHY IS THERE NO ONE HERE FROM THE UNITED STATES?

THE COUNTRY WITH MORE SUPER HEROES THAN I'VE GOT RINGWORMS. YET NOT A ONE OF THEM IS SITTING AT YOUR TABLE.



NOT EVEN YOUR DEAR FRIEND, CAPTAIN ROGERS--WHO I HEAR IS NOT SO POPULAR WITH HIS OWN GOVERNMENT THESE DAYS.

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, LORD AVENGER. A VERY BIG STAR-SPANGLED PROBLEM. YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW BIG YET, DO YOU? AND YOU WANT US TO HELP SOLVE IT FOR YOU.

WELL, ALLOW ME TO SAY, YOUR HOLINESS, ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE WINTER GUARD AND ALL THE GOOD PEOPLE OF MOTHER RUSSIA...



...KISS MY FURRY ASS.



HAA!

THIS IS WHY YOU NEVER INVITE A BEAR TO A DINNER PARTY.

I'D HOPED WE'D AT LEAST MAKE IT THROUGH THE APPETIZER COURSE BEFORE THE FIRST FIGHT.

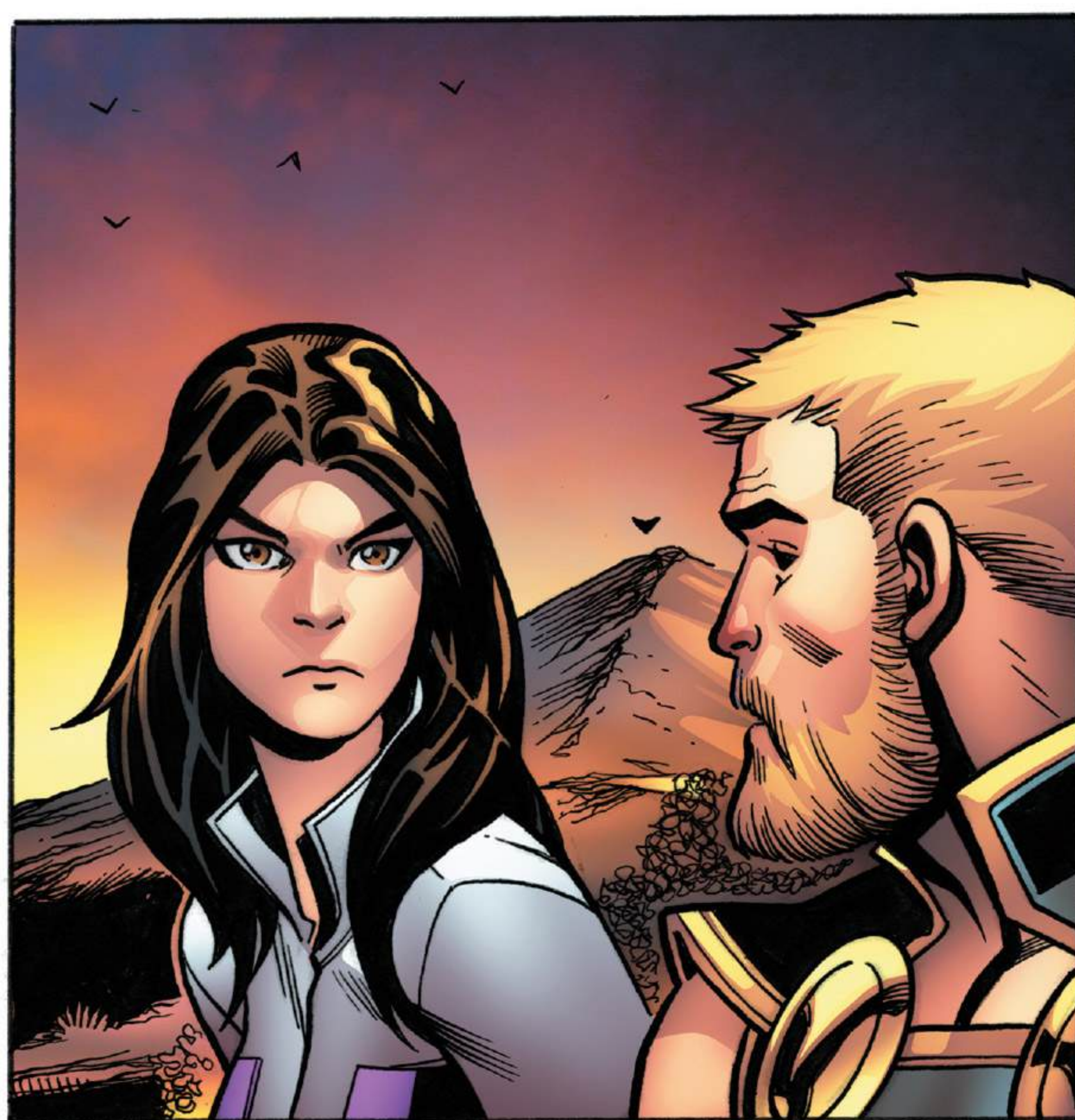
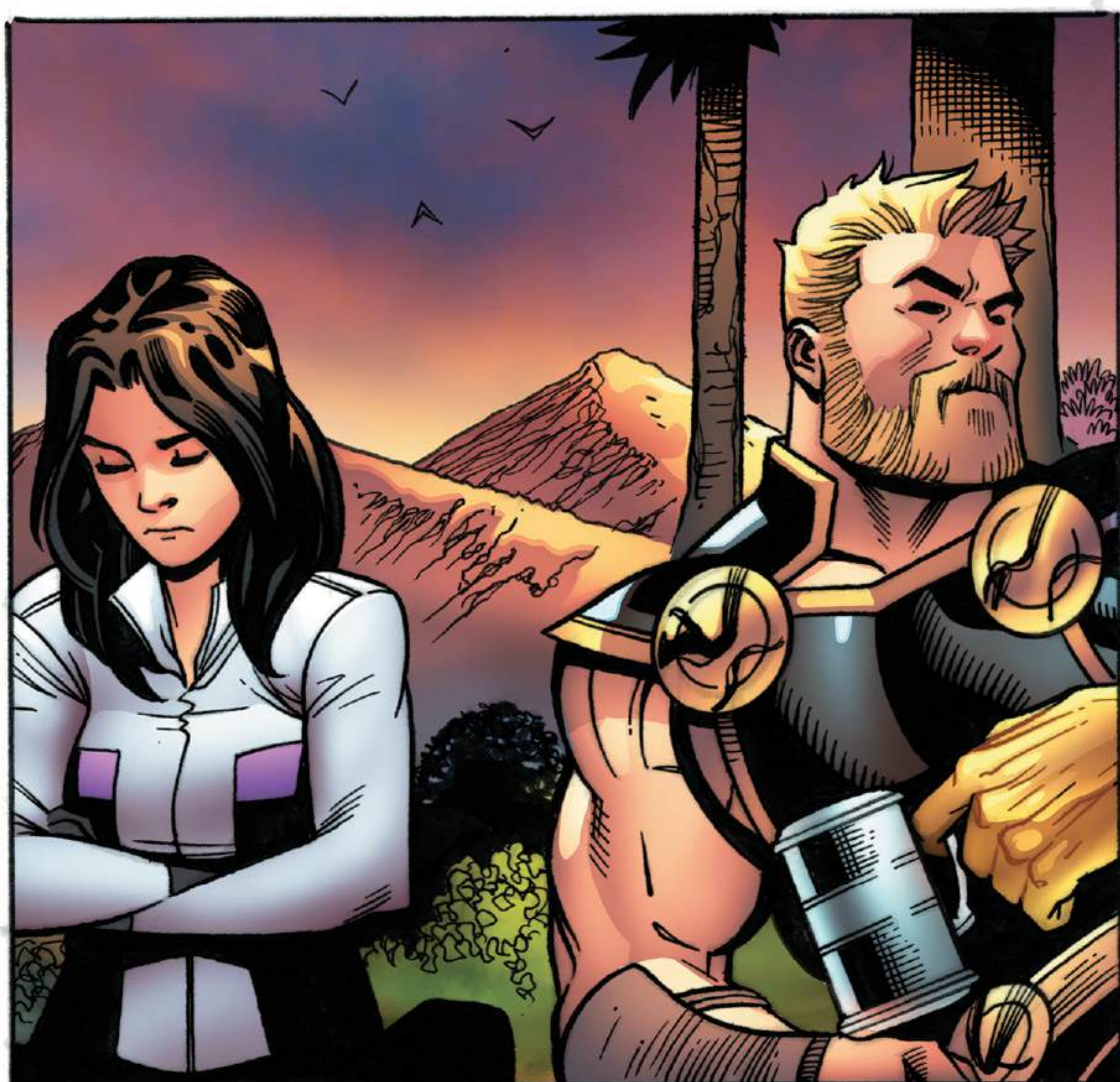
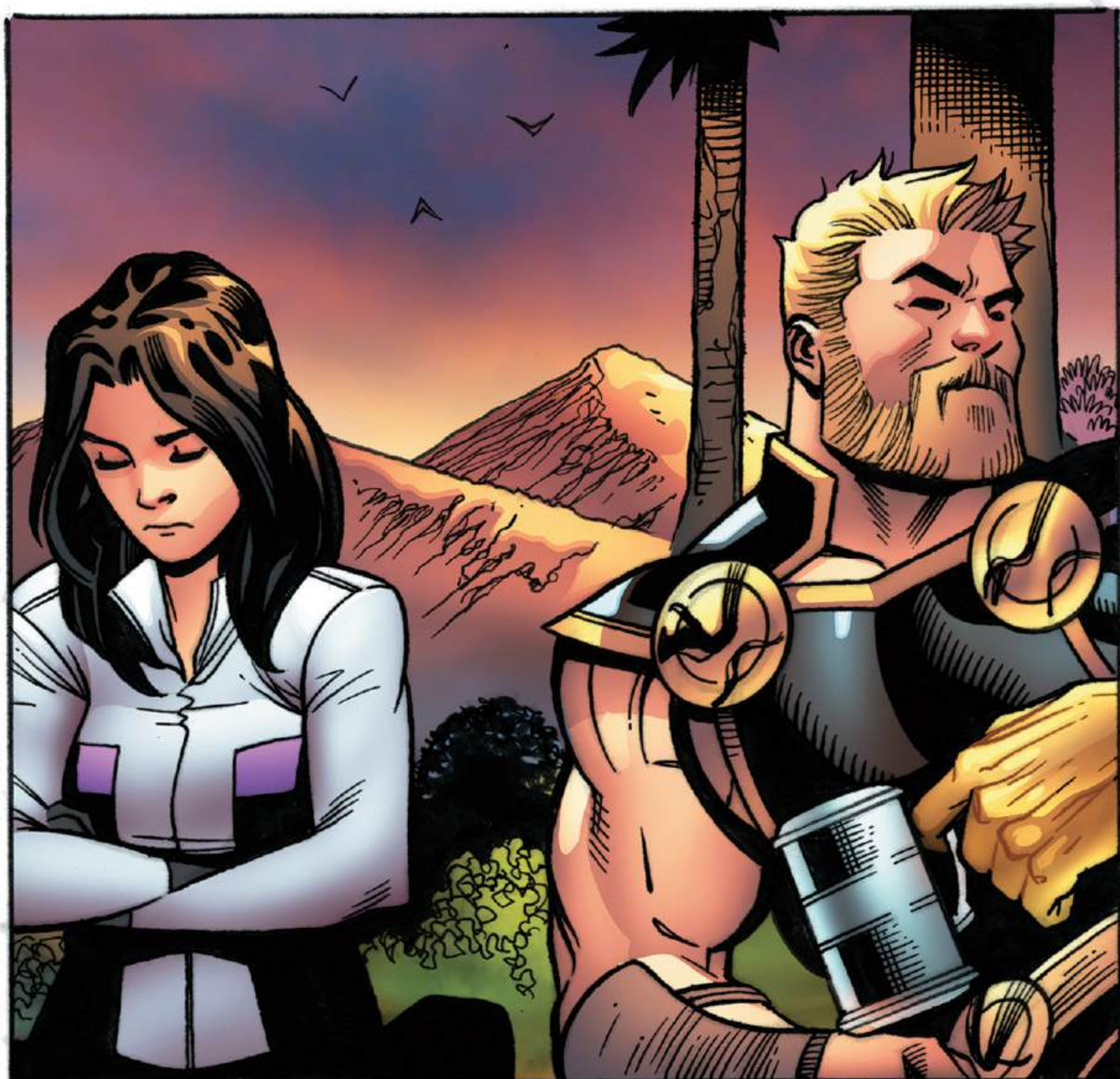
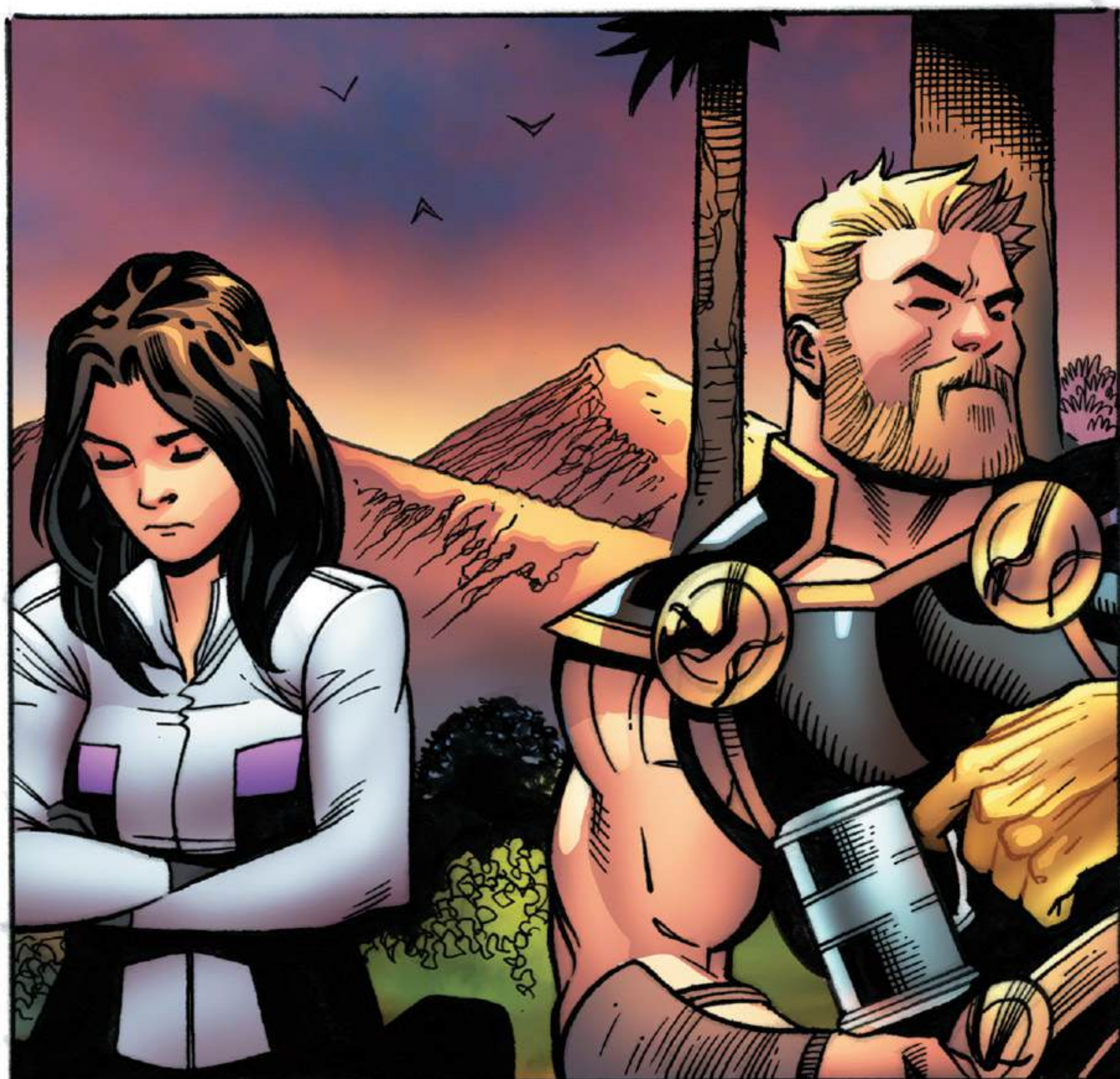
AT LEAST IT'S NOT US.

TRUE. PERHAPS THERE'S HOPE FOR THE WORLD AFTER ALL.

NOT LOOKING LIKE IT.

HAAA
HA HA
HAA!





I'M SORRY,
BUT I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND. I DON'T
WORK FOR THE AVENGERS.
I WORK FOR THE SAME
PEOPLE YOU DO,
AGENT COULSON.

DON'T DIE
WITH A **LIE** ON
YOUR LIPS,
SON.

I KNOW IT
HASN'T BEEN OUR
NORMAL WAY OF LIFE
FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
IT'S CERTAINLY NOT WHAT
S.H.I.E.L.D. TRAINED US
TO DO. BUT TRY TELLING
THE **TRUTH** FOR A
CHANGE.

I'M
FINDING IT QUITE
EXHILARATING.

TONY STARK
IS A LOUDMOUTHED
JERK. CAPTAIN AMERICA
IS A **TRAITOR.** SEE HOW
EASY THAT WAS?

THE TRUTH IS,
SIR, I WAS HIRED
BY **GENERAL
THUNDERBOLT ROSS,**
THE SAME AS
YOU.

I AM ON
YOUR SIDE, I SWEAR
TO YOU. AND I BELIEVE
IN THIS PROJECT IN
EVERY WAY. BUT YOU KNOW
THE THINGS ROSS SAYS ABOUT
CAPTAIN ROGERS AND THE
AVENGERS CAN'T
BE TRUE.

THE TRUTH
CAN BE HARD TO
SWALLOW SOMETIMES.
I'VE NEARLY CHOKED
ON IT A FEW TIMES
MYSELF LATELY.

INCLUDING
THE TRUTH
ABOUT **YOU,**
MY FRIEND.

AND YOUR
REAL EMPLOYER,
THE **BLACK
PANTHER.**

AGENT COULSON.
PHIL. WE'VE KNOWN
EACH OTHER A LONG TIME.
WE WORKED TOGETHER FOR
YEARS. PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
AB--

I'M GOING
TO SHOOT
YOU IN THE
LEG NOW.





ENOUGH
DAMN
TALK!

WHAT THE
HELL PROBLEMS
HAS THAT EVER
SOLVED?!



YOU'RE
WAY OUT OF
LINE, URSUS!

SIT DOWN
OR THE **COLLECTIVE
MAN** WILL SIT YOU
DOWN, YOU IMPUDENT
PANDA!

YOU BUNCH
OF BLUNDERING
HALF-WITS WANT
PEACE ON EARTH?
THEN LET'S MAKE
IT HAPPEN RIGHT
HERE!



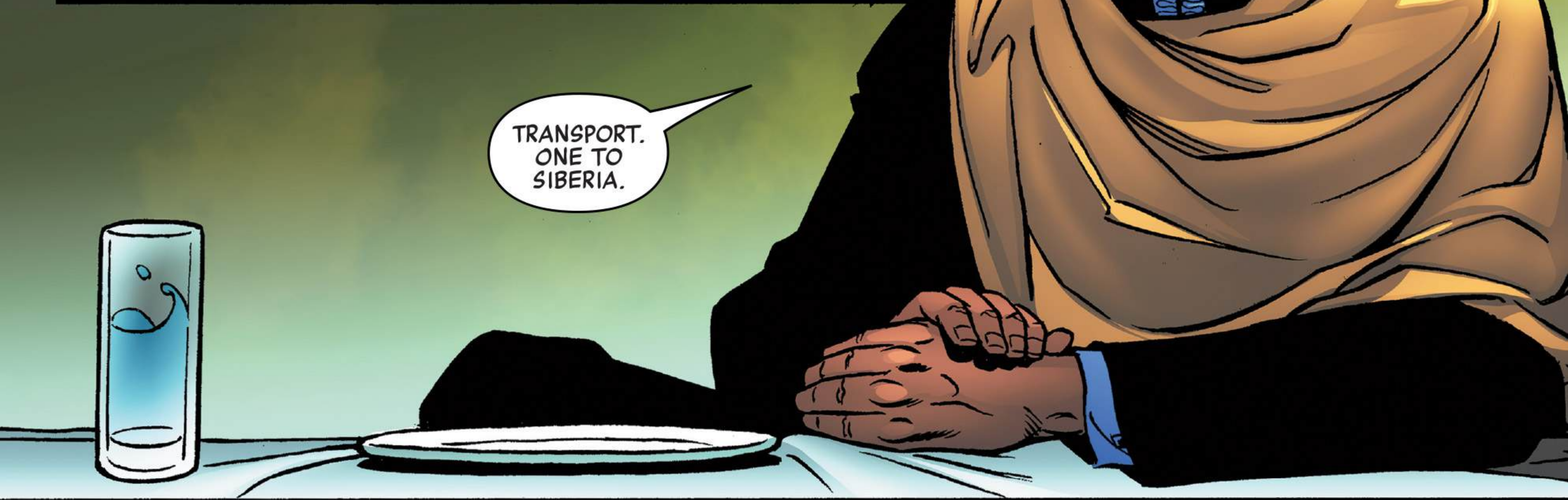
I MAUL
EVERY LAST DAMN
ONE OF YOU! AND
THEN YOU STAY THE HELL
OUT OF THE WINTER'S
GUARD'S WAY! **THERE'S
YOUR PEACE!**

AND I'M
STARTING WITH
**YOU, YOUR
HIGHNESS!**

WHAT DO
YOU SAY TO
THAT?!



TRANSPORT.
ONE TO
SIBERIA.





I APOLOGIZE
FOR THE DISTURBANCE.
BUT WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW
THIS UNFORTUNATE BUSINESS
TO DERAIL OUR SUMMIT.
WE HAVE MUCH TO
DISCUSS.

IRON MEN.
CLEAN UP THIS
MESS.



AH, YOU SHOULD'VE AT LEAST **PUNCHED** HIM. I'VE NEVER SEEN A BEAR FIGHT A PANTHER.

HE DEFINITELY HAD IT COMING.

URSUS WAS **KGB**. HE'S NO DRUNKEN BUFFOON. THAT WAS ALL QUITE INTENTIONAL. HE WAS **GOADING** YOU. GOOD ON YOU FOR NOT TAKING THE BAIT, T'CHALLA.



WHEN I EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO THE WINTER GUARD, I HAD HOPED THE **CRIMSON DYNAMO** WOULD ATTEND. BUT YES, I IMAGINE THEY SENT **URSA MAJOR** VERY MUCH ON PURPOSE.

IT APPEARS WE WILL FIND NO ALLIES IN **MOSCOW**.

I HEAR IT IS THIS NEW **RED WIDOW** WHO IS CALLING THE SHOTS.



DAMN **RED ROOM**. EVERY MONSTER THEY CHURN OUT IS SOMEHOW ALWAYS WORSE THAN THE LAST.

THAT CORNER OF THE GLOBE'S IN A FAIR BIT OF CHAOS NOW. YOU'VE ALL HEARD ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN **ROMANIA**? WITH THESE NEW VAMPIRE INSURGENTS?

ATLANTIS IS WHERE WE NEED TO BE FOCUSED. EVERY OCEAN IN THE WORLD HAS BECOME A BATTLEGROUND.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT **NAMOR** AND HIS...

THE BEAR ASKED AN IMPORTANT QUESTION...



...BEFORE YOU SENT HIM OFF TO **SIBERIA**.

WHAT **DID** HAPPEN IN **ALASKA**?

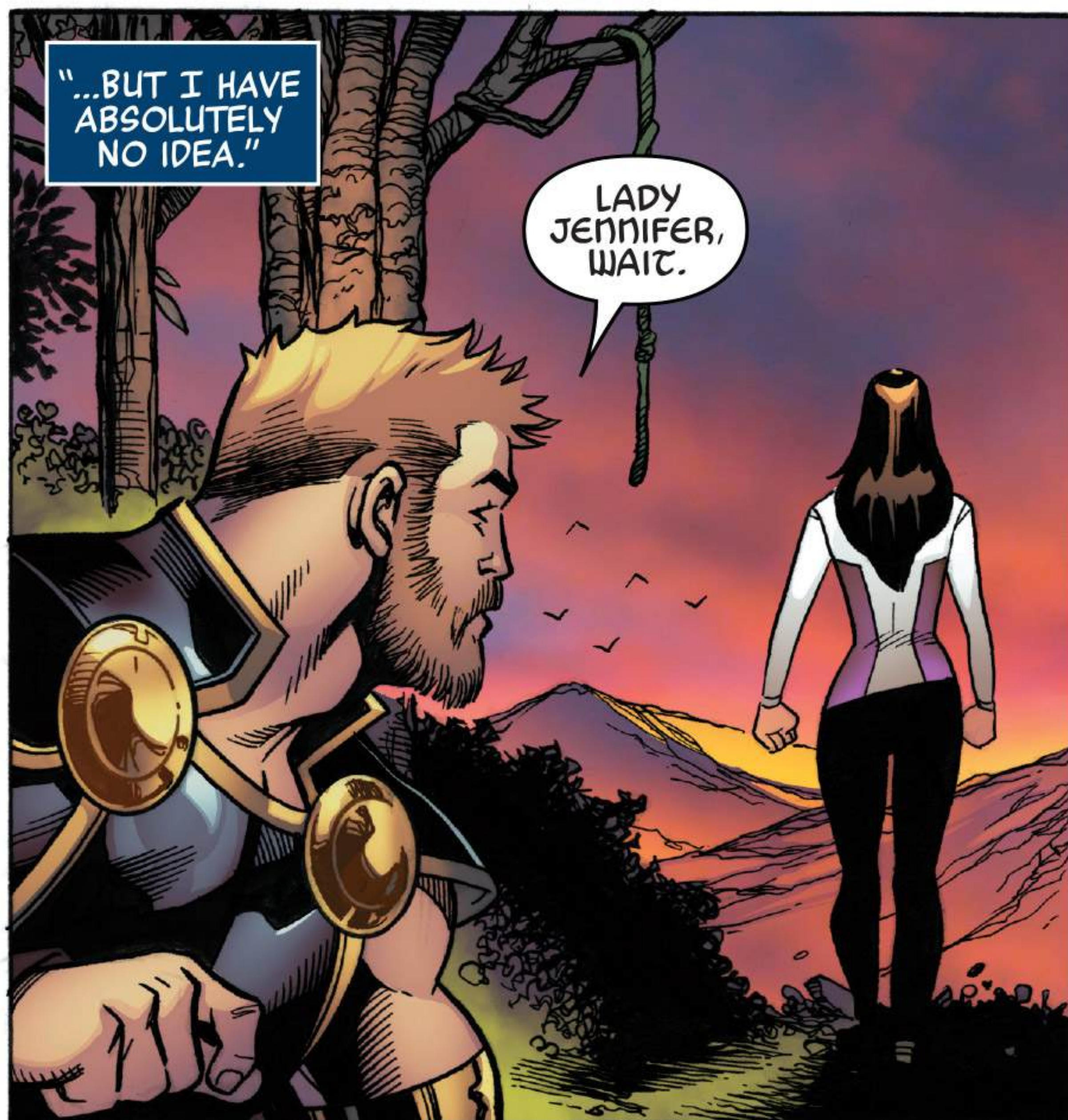


NAMOR'S FORCES ATTACKED A **ROXXON** OIL DRILLING PLATFORM. AND APPARENTLY WERE VERY QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY **REPELLED**.

BUT NOT BY THE **AVENGERS**. NOT BY THE **WINTER GUARD**. NOT BY ANY OF YOU IN THIS ROOM.

THEN BY WHOM?

I AM NOT USED TO SAYING WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY...



"...BUT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA."

LADY JENNIFER, WAIT.



THIS WAS NOT WHAT I INTENDED.

CLEARLY. BECAUSE YOU **INTENDED** TO ASK OUT THE HULK. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE'RE KIND OF A PACKAGE DEAL.

AND RIGHT NOW WE BOTH WANT TO **SMASH** YOUR **FACE**. SO FOR YOUR SAKE, THOR, I'M LEAVING.

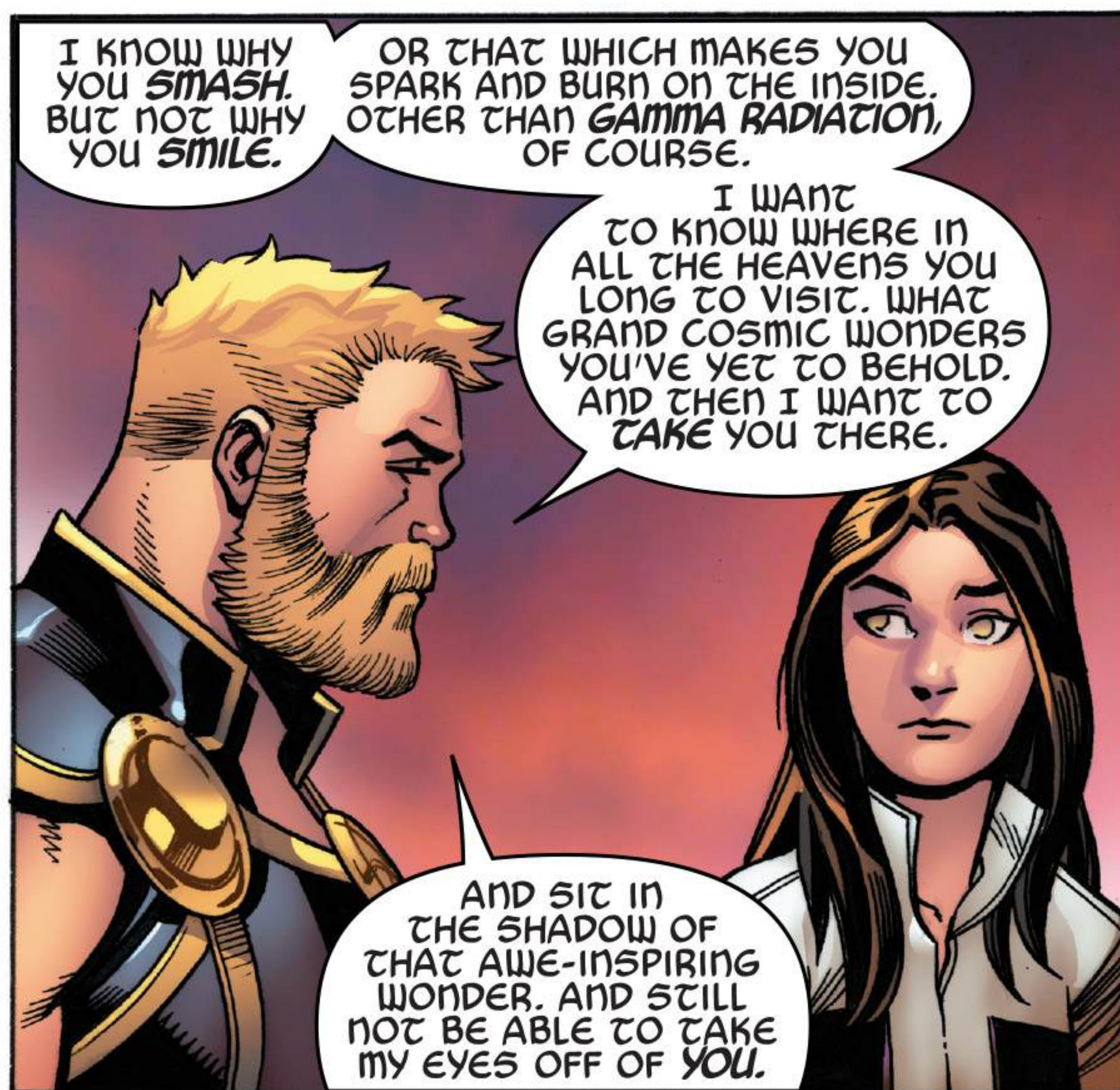
IT WAS YOU.



BY THE EYE OF MY FATHER, I SWEAR TO YOU, LADY JENNIFER, IT WAS YOU WITH WHOM I WISHED TO SPEND THIS TIME.

THOR IS... SADLY FAR BETTER VERSED IN THE ART OF HURLING HIS MIGHTY HAMMER THAN OF HURLING... **WORDS**... FROM... HIS MOUTH.

BUT I... I ONLY WISH TO BETTER **KNOW** YOU, MY LADY.

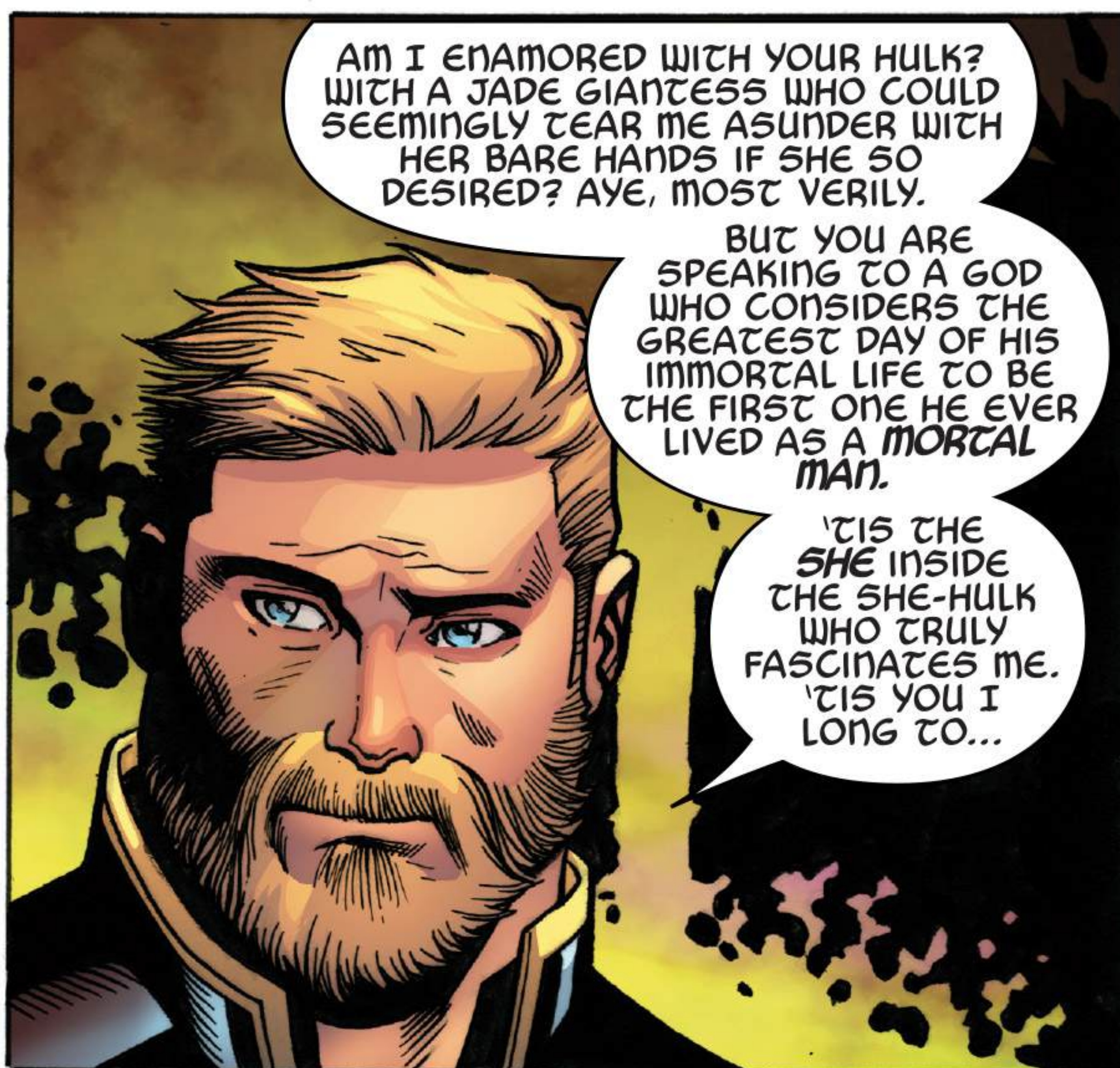


I KNOW WHY YOU **SMASH**. BUT NOT WHY YOU **SMILE**.

OR THAT WHICH MAKES YOU SPARK AND BURN ON THE INSIDE. OTHER THAN **GAMMA RADIATION**, OF COURSE.

I WANT TO KNOW WHERE IN ALL THE HEAVENS YOU LONG TO VISIT. WHAT GRAND COSMIC WONDERS YOU'VE YET TO BEHOLD. AND THEN I WANT TO **TAKE** YOU THERE.

AND SIT IN THE SHADOW OF THAT AWE-INSPIRING WONDER. AND STILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE MY EYES OFF OF YOU.



AM I ENAMORED WITH YOUR HULK? WITH A JADE GIANTESS WHO COULD SEEMINGLY TEAR ME ASUNDER WITH HER BARE HANDS IF SHE SO DESIRED? AYE, MOST VERILY.

BUT YOU ARE SPEAKING TO A GOD WHO CONSIDERS THE GREATEST DAY OF HIS IMMORTAL LIFE TO BE THE FIRST ONE HE EVER LIVED AS A **MORTAL MAN**.

'TIS THE **SHE** INSIDE THE SHE-HULK WHO TRULY FASCINATES ME. 'TIS YOU I LONG TO...



THOR STOP TALKING NOW.

"OUR WORLD TODAY IS
RIFE WITH POWDER KEGS.

"YOU CAN SEE THEM
IN EVERY CORNER
OF THE GLOBE.

"WAITING TO
EXPLODE."



POWDER
KEGS, I CAN
DEAL WITH. THAT
IS THE JOB.

BUT WHAT
WORRIES ME
MOST...IS THE
EXPLOSION I
CANNOT SEE
COMING.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN ALASKA OR WHAT IT MEANS. I DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IS TRANSPIRING IN THE HALLS OF *WASHINGTON, D.C.*

I JUST KNOW THAT SOME WITHIN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NO LONGER CONSIDER THEIR NATION AN ALLY OF THE AVENGERS.

BEYOND THAT, ALL I HAVE ARE QUESTIONS.

TOGETHER, WE MUST FIND SOME ANSWERS, MY FRIENDS-- FOR ALL OUR SALES.

OR THE EXPLOSION THAT IGNITES ALL THE POWDER KEYS AROUND THE GLOBE...

"...MAY COME FROM WHERE WE *LEAST* EXPECT IT."

GAGGGGH, COULSON, PLEASE...

WHEN S.H.I.E.L.D. FOLDED, YOU WENT TO WORK FOR THE PANTHER. YOU'RE A SPY FOR THE AVENGERS. THEY SENT YOU TO INFILTRATE ROSS' TEAM. TO INFILTRATE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND REPORT BACK.

HOW AM I DOING?

NO. NO, I...

DON'T BOTHER LYING. WE HAVE *TELEPATHS* ON STAFF. WE KNOW EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING THE PANTHER DOESN'T.

SHOULD I JUST COME RIGHT OUT AND *TELL* YOU WHAT HE SENT YOU HERE TO FIND OUT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN ALASKA?



"THE SQUADRON
SUPREME OF
AMERICA HAPPENED.

"IT WAS THEIR
TRIAL RUN.

"AND THEY
PASSED WITH
FLYING COLORS.

"BLOODY
COLORS,
MOSTLY."



THE AVENGERS
WILL KNOW ALL
ABOUT THEM SOON
ENOUGH. BUT ON
OUR TERMS.

PHIL, PLEASE...
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO YOU...IF YOU
REALLY DID DIE, OR
HOW YOU CAME
BACK, BUT...

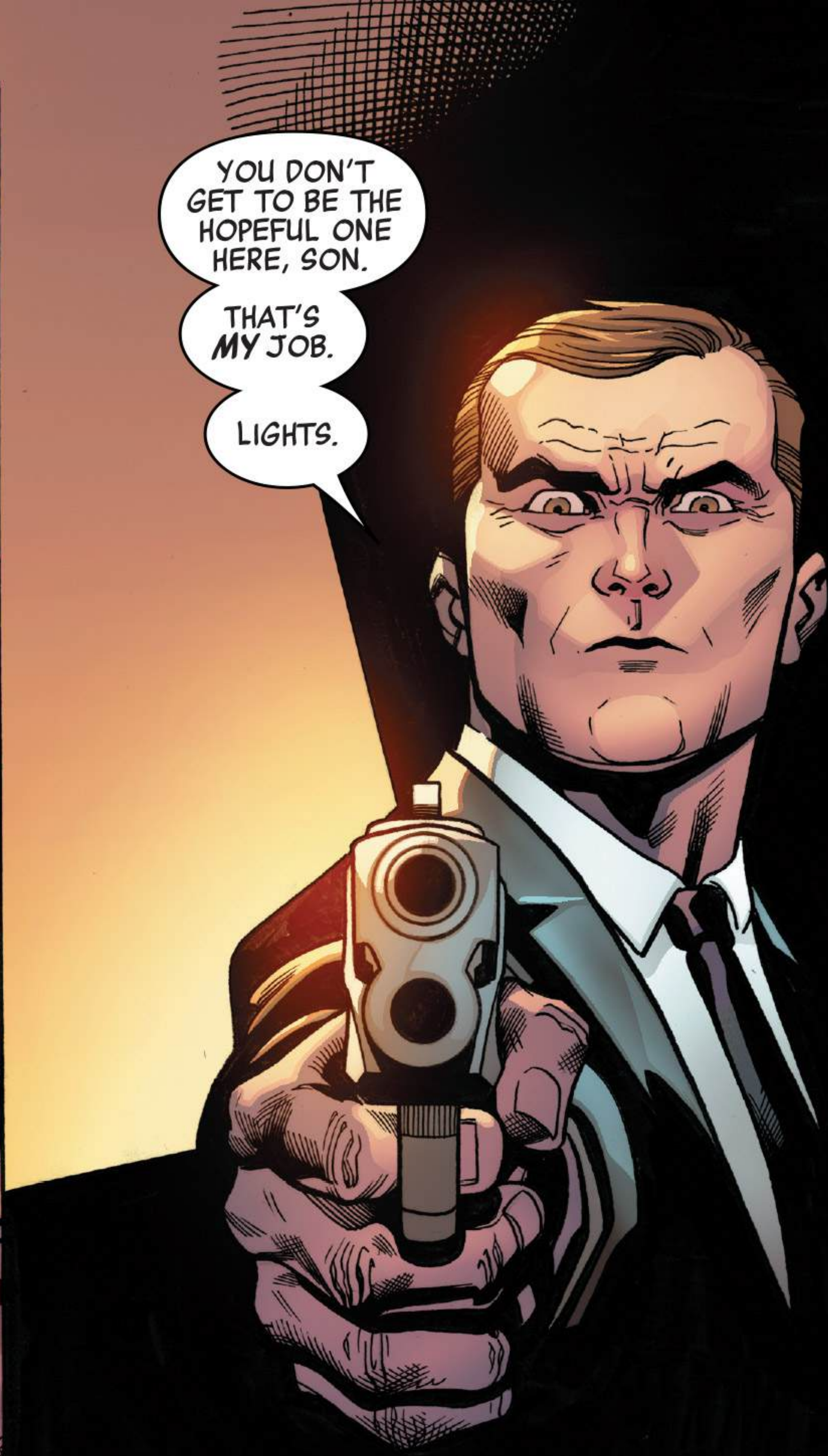
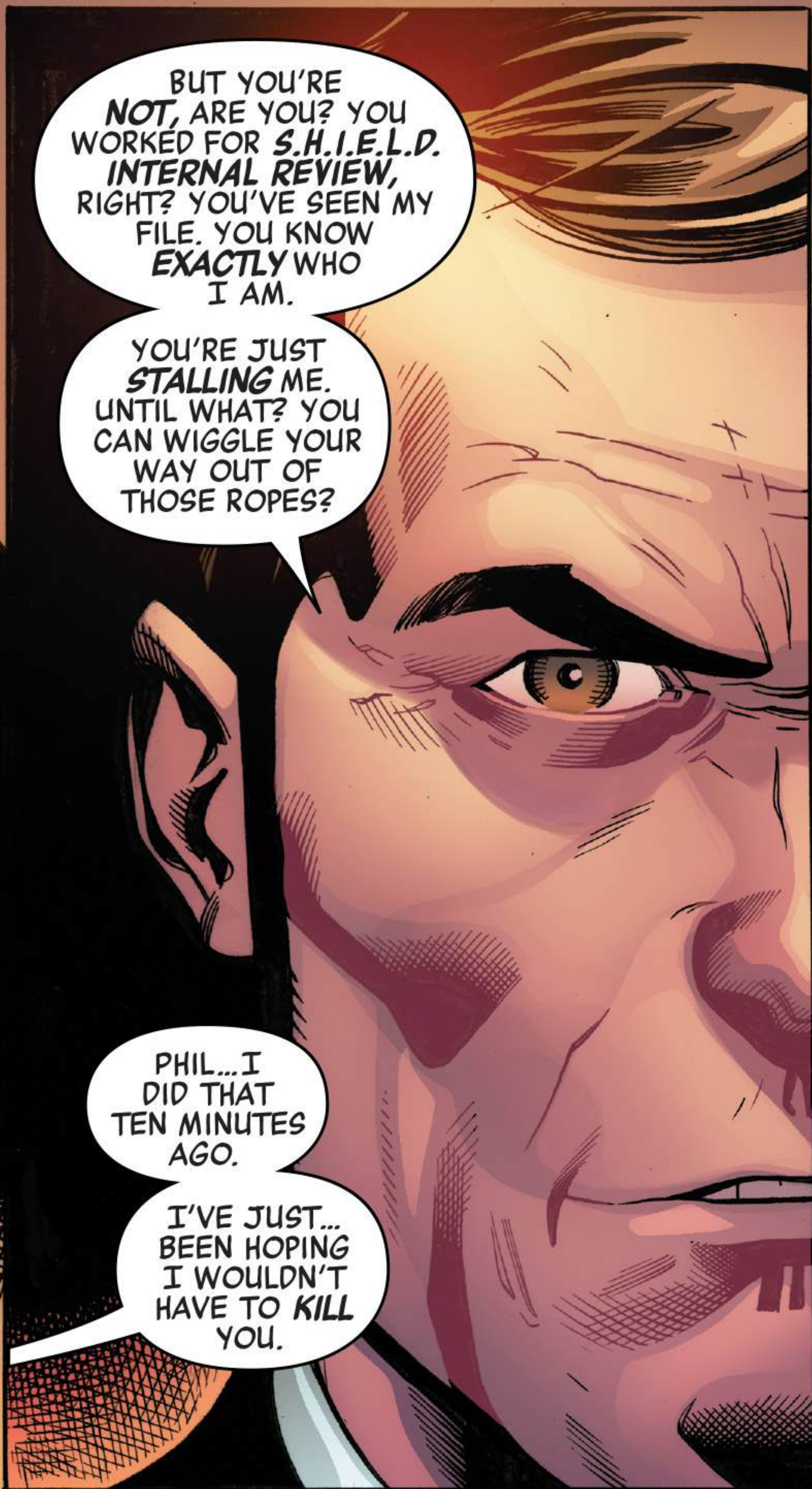
...I JUST
KNOW THIS
ISN'T YOU. THIS
ISN'T THE SORT
OF MAN YOU
ARE.

THE SORT
WHO WOULD TIE
YOU UP AND *SHOOT*
YOU, YOU MEAN?
BECAUSE
WHY?

BECAUSE I
ALWAYS SEEMED
LIKE A NICE GUY?
REMEMBERED YOUR
BIRTHDAY? NEVER
RAISED MY VOICE?
BECAUSE I'M
FROM *OHIO?*

I WAS AN
AGENT OF
S.H.I.E.L.D. FOR
YEARS.

DON'T
BE NAIVE.



BUT YOU'RE **NOT**, ARE YOU? YOU WORKED FOR **S.H.I.E.L.D. INTERNAL REVIEW**, RIGHT? YOU'VE SEEN MY FILE. YOU KNOW **EXACTLY** WHO I AM.

YOU'RE JUST **STALLING** ME. UNTIL WHAT? YOU CAN WIGGLE YOUR WAY OUT OF THOSE ROPES?

PHIL... I DID THAT TEN MINUTES AGO.

I'VE JUST... BEEN HOPING I WOULDN'T HAVE TO **KILL** YOU.

YOU DON'T GET TO BE THE **HOPEFUL** ONE HERE, SON.

THAT'S **MY** JOB.

LIGHTS.

KLICK

BLAM

KRASH

THWAK

THUNK

KRAK

CRUNCH

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

THUD

KLIK

GOD BLESS
AMERICA.



12 THE AGENTS OF WAKANDA



**AVENGERS
MOUNTAIN.
THE NORTH POLE.
WEEKS AGO.**

ARE YOU
QUITE CERTAIN THIS
IS A GOOD IDEA? BY
THAT I MEAN--IF I MAY
BE SO BOLD, SIR--IT
DOES FEEL A TAD...

...INDECENT, DOES
IT NOT? MAKING ONE'S
HEADQUARTERS INSIDE
WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY
A HUMONGOUS
CORPSE?

IT'S WHAT
THE CELESTIALS
WANTED, ACCORDING TO
GHOST RIDER. IT'S WHY THEY
RAISED THE REMAINS OF
THIS **ANCIENT PROGENITOR**
FROM THE SEA
FLOOR.

WELL, YOU
CERTAINLY HAVE
OODLES OF ROOM.
MAKES THE OLD MANSION
SEEM A BIT **PEDESTRIAN**,
DOESN'T IT? MY HEAVENS,
THE TIME IT WILL TAKE
FOR VACUUMING
ALONE.

**EDWIN JARVIS.
AVENGERS BUTLER.
SEMI-RETIRED.**

I DO HOPE
YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING
ME TO RELOCATE TO THE
NORTH POLE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
OF COURSE I ALWAYS WANT
TO BE OF SERVICE TO THE
AVENGERS, BUT I'M AFRAID
AT MY AGE I PREFER NOT TO
GO TRAIPSING THIS FAR
OUTSIDE THE CONFINES
OF MANHATTAN.

I WANTED
YOU TO BE ONE
OF THE FIRST TO SEE
THE FINISHED MOUNTAIN,
JARVIS. AND TO KNOW
THAT YOUR PRESENCE AND
ADVICE WILL ALWAYS
BE WELCOME
HERE.

ADVICE?
ON WHAT,
SIR?

FOR MANY
YEARS, YOU WERE A
ONE-MAN SUPPORT STAFF
FOR THE AVENGERS. BUT
WITH THIS PLACE AND
THESE AVENGERS...

AH, YOU'RE
QUITE RIGHT. NO
ONE INDIVIDUAL
COULD EVER HOPE
TO REPLACE
ME.

YOU'LL NEED
AN ENTIRE **TEAM**
OF THEM, NO DOUBT.
NOTHING BUT THE BEST
AND BRIGHTEST
WILL DO.

SO TELL ME,
SIR CHAIRMAN,
WHO IS THE FIRST
DISTINGUISHED
NAME ON YOUR
LIST?



TIMBUKTU.

YOU
HAVEN'T COME
TO *KILL* ME,
HAVE YOU?



BECAUSE IF
SO, I'M AFRAID
I'LL FEEL COMPELLED
TO TALK YOU OUT OF
IT. FOR YOUR *OWN*
GOOD, CERTAINLY
NOT *MINE*.

I HAVE
NO REASON
TO KILL YOU,
MR. HALE...THAT
I KNOW OF.



HEH. OH,
THEY ALL GOT
A REASON. EVERY
TWO-BIT MERCENARY
AND DESPERATE DEADBEAT
WHO COMES LUMBERING
OUTTA THE SHADOWS
WITH A GUN IN THEIR
HAND. ONE AWFULLY
BIG REASON.

KILL ME AND
YOU'LL NEVER GET
SICK, NEVER GROW
OLD. KILL THE *GORILLA-*
MAN AND YOU LIVE
FOREVER.

SOUNDS LIKE
A PRETTY SWEET
DEAL, RIGHT?
YEAH, I THOUGHT
SO TOO.

ONCE
UPON A DAMN
TIME.



THE LEGEND KINDA GLOSSES OVER THE FACT THAT YOU'LL BE SPENDING ETERNITY AS A **TALKING GORILLA**. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH BEER IT TAKES TO GET A GORILLA BLACKOUT DRUNK?

ME NEITHER. BUT I'M STILL TRYING TO FIND OUT. HEY, **KOFI**. KEEP 'EM COMING OVER HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING, YOUR HIGHNESS?

I AM NOT HERE TO KILL YOU OR TO INDULGE YOU IN KILLING YOURSELF, MR. HALE.

I CAME BECAUSE I KNOW YOU WERE ONCE AN ACCOMPLISHED AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., AND AFTER THAT, AN OPERATIVE OF SOME RENOWN AND INFAMY FOR THE ATLAS FOUNDATION.



I CAME TO OFFER YOU A JOB. ASSUMING YOU'RE FIT FOR DUTY.



WELL, HELL. WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO, CHIEF? AND NO OFFENSE, BUT IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME.

KEN... ABOUT THIS TAB...

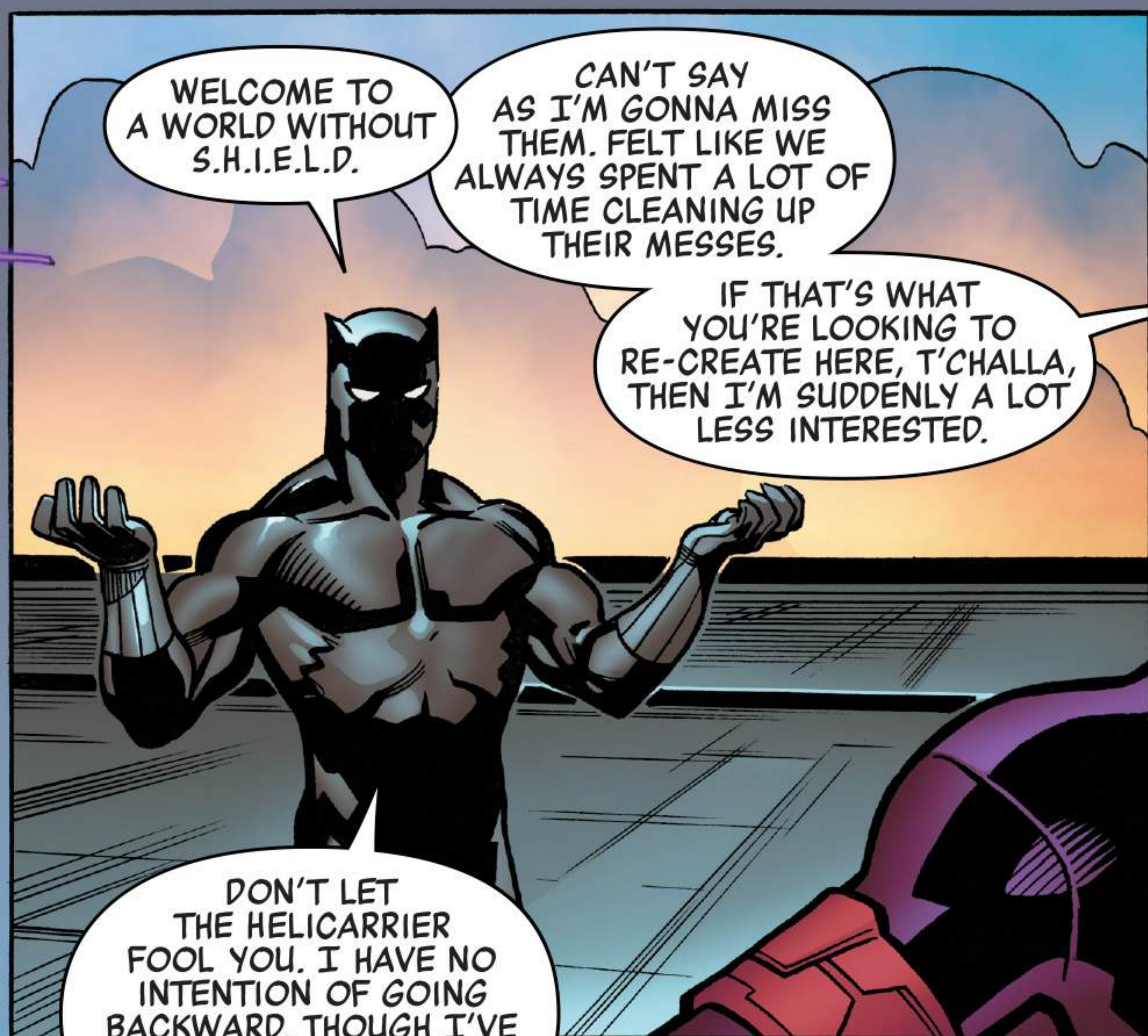
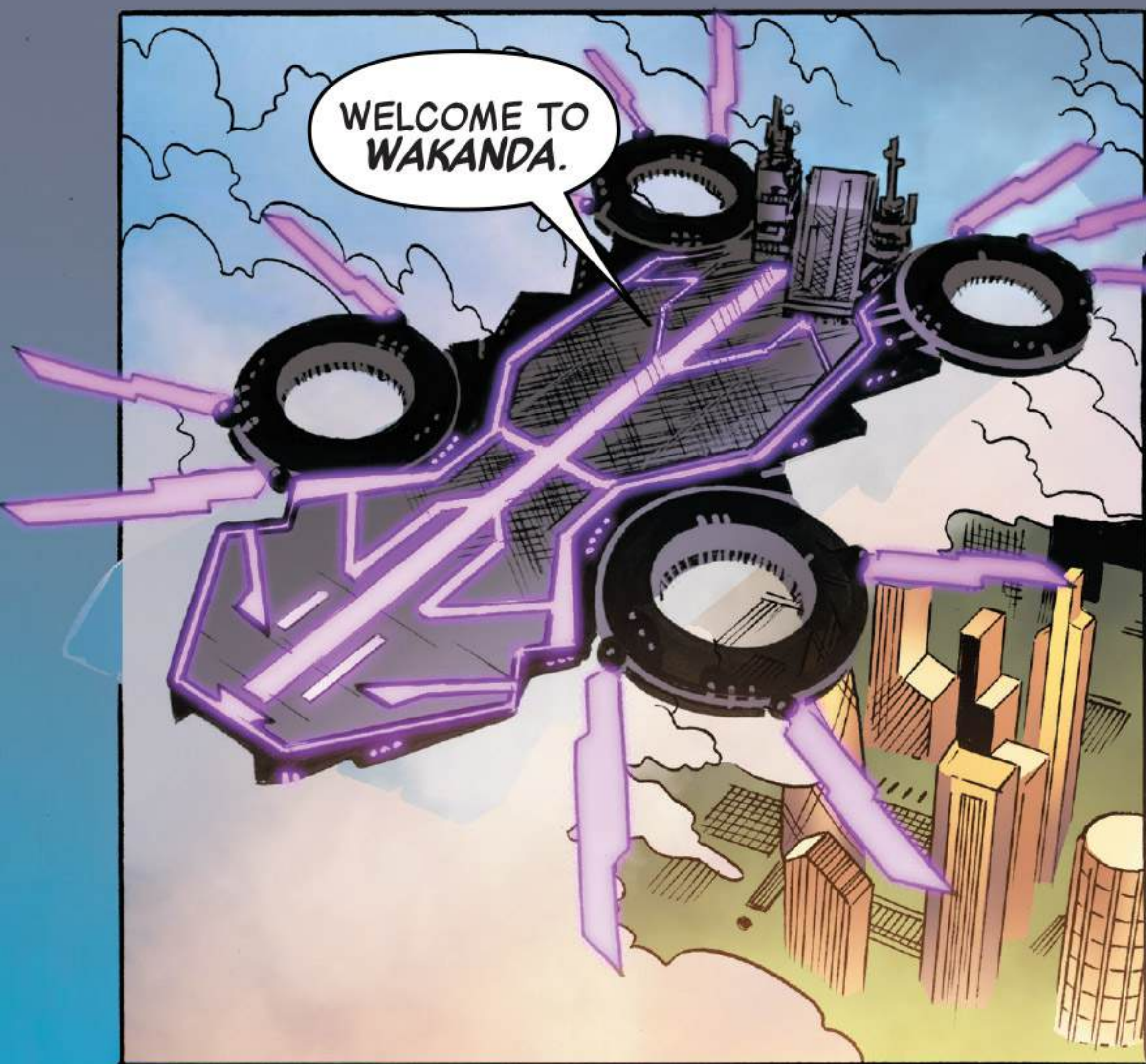
SEND IT TO TONY STARK. DIDN'T YOU HEAR, KOFI? I'M A DAMN **AVENGER** NOW!

THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE AVENGERS. NOT EXACTLY.

SKRATCH! SKRATCH!



YEAH? WELL IF YOU AIN'T HIRING ME TO BE AN AVENGER, THEN WHAT THE HELL AM I GONNA BE?



DON'T LET THE HELICARRIER FOOL YOU. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING BACKWARD. THOUGH I'VE FOUND THAT, SOMETIMES, THE BEST WAY TO FORGE AHEAD...



...IS WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN THERE SINCE THE BEGINNING.

HA! THAT'S YOUR NICE WAY OF SAYING I'M OBSOLETE. YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO CALL THE YOUNGER, FLASHIER VERSION OF ME?

THERE IS ONLY ONE JANET VAN DYNE. AND SHE IS WHO I NEED.

OKAY, WELL, YOU GOT YOUR FANCY NEW HELICARRIER AND YOUR FANCY NEW AVENGERS. WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU NEED A SALTY OLD ORIGINAL WASP FOR?

I FERVENTLY APPROVE OF THE WASP, YOUR HIGHNESS. AS FOR THE OTHERS...

...HOW ARE THERE NOT BETTER AVAILABLE CANDIDATES THAN THIS? WAS THERE RECENTLY A SUPER HERO MASSACRE OF WHICH I WAS NOT MADE AWARE?

ONE OF THEM APPEARS TO BE A GORILLA WITH PANTS AND A MACHINE GUN.

WE ARE NOT BUILDING ANOTHER TEAM OF SUPER HEROES, OKOYE. THE NEW AVENGERS ARE ALREADY THE MOST POWERFUL SUPER-TEAM IN RECENT MEMORY.

WE MUST BUILD THE GROUND CREW FOR THE AVENGERS.

WE NEED AGENTS. INTELLIGENCE GATHERERS. STEALTH OPERATIVES. PEOPLE WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF UNIQUE SKILLS WHO CAN WORK ALONE IN THE MOST INHOSPITABLE REGIONS IMAGINABLE.

YES, WELL, SOME OF THESE PEOPLE ARE MOST CERTAINLY UNIQUE. "FAT COBRA." THIS PERSON **CHOOSES** TO GO BY THIS NAME?

I HAND-SELECTED THESE CANDIDATES. BUT ANYONE WHO DOESN'T MEET YOUR APPROVAL WILL NOT BE EXTENDED AN INVITATION.

AND WHY EXACTLY AM I TO HAVE SO MUCH SAY IN THIS PARTICULAR MATTER?

BECAUSE...

"...YOU'LL
BE DIRECTING
THEM."

NOW.

WE ARE
HERE.



WE ARE?
UM. IT LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE IN THE
MIDDLE OF THE
OCEAN.

MOST
OBSERVANT. YOU
ARE DEFINITELY
PASSING WITH THE
FLYING COLORS
SO FAR.

YOUR
ASSIGNMENT IS
IN THE WATERS
BELOW.

OKOYE.
LEADER OF THE *DORA MILAJE*.
DIRECTOR OF THE AGENTS OF WAKANDA.

YOU ARE
TO INFILTRATE
THE UNDERSEA
KINGDOM OF *ATLANTIS*
UNDETECTED, AND
DETERMINE THEIR LEVEL
OF PREPAREDNESS FOR
A POSSIBLE INVASION
OF THE SURFACE
WORLD.

TAKE WHATEVER
YOU NEED. BREATHING
APPARATUS. VIBRANIUM-
LACED WETSUIT. DEEP-
SEA WEAPONRY.

JUST KNOW
THAT IF YOU ARE
CAUGHT, NONE OF
THIS WILL SAVE YOU
FROM *NAMOR'S*
WRATH.

I ALREADY
HAVE ALL I
NEED, BOSS.
RIGHT HERE.

AND AS FOR
A GRUMPY OLD
RELIC LIKE *NAMOR*,
WELL, DON'T WORRY,
MA'AM...WHERE I
COME FROM...



KA-ZAR.
LORD OF THE SAVAGE LAND.
AGENT OF WAKANDA.

"I'M
USED TO
DEALING WITH
DINOSAURS,"
HE SAID.

AND THEN
DOVE INTO THE
OCEAN WITH NOTHING
BUT A KNIFE AND A
LOINCLOTH.

I DO HOPE
YOU ARE NOT TOO
ATTACHED TO THIS
PARTICULAR AGENT,
T'CHALLA...

...BECAUSE HE
WILL DEFINITELY
BE DEAD VERY
SOON.

I WOULDN'T BE
SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO
CAN THRIVE IN A HOSTILE
ENVIRONMENT,
IT'S KA-ZAR.

ARE YOU
HEADED BACK TO
THE MOUNTAIN, OKOYE?
WE'VE GOT MORE
PROSPECTIVE AGENTS
COMING IN...



"...AND WE NEED
SOMEONE THERE
TO GREET THEM."

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN. TELEPORTATION CHAMBER.

AAAHHH!

WHAT THE
HELL *ARE* YOU AND
WHAT IN THE DAMN
HELL ARE YOU DOING
HERE? THIS IS A
MAXIMUM-SECURITY
AREA!

SPEAK
UP OR EAT
VIBRANIUM,
PAL!

GORILLA-MAN.
CHIEF OF SECURITY FOR
AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.

STAND DOWN,
CHIEF HALE. THIS
IS ANOTHER
INVITED GUEST.

OH, SORRY.
CAN'T BE TOO
CAREFUL WITH
THIS PLACE.

WELCOME
TO THE PARTY,
LITTLE...UH,
WHATEVER
YOU ARE.

THE
WEIRDER
THE BETTER
AROUND
HERE, IF YOU
ASK ME.

OH MY. AM
I CORRECT IN
ASCERTAINING
THAT WE ARE
CURRENTLY INSIDE
THE HEART OF A
CELESTIAL?

INDEED.
WE WERE ABLE
TO PARTIALLY
REANIMATE THE
CELESTIAL'S
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM
AND USE THE COSMIC
ENERGY FROM ITS
BLOOD CELLS TO
TURN ONE OF THE
VENTRICLES OF ITS
HEART INTO A
TELEPORTATION
HUB.

THOUGH WE
HAVE YET TO
COME UP WITH A
PROPER NAME
FOR IT.

THE
CIRCULATOR.
THAT'S WHAT
I'D NAME
IT.

I BELIEVE
YOU JUST DID.
NOW WHY DON'T
I SHOW YOU TO
YOUR WORK
STATION?

HERE INSIDE THE PROGENITOR'S CRANIUM IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ROOM IN AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.

THIS IS WHERE OUR SERVERS ARE HARDWIRED INTO THE REMAINS OF THE CELESTIAL'S CEREBRUM.

WOW. A COMPUTER NETWORK THAT RUNS ALONG THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF A SPACE GOD.

YES, WHICH MAKES THIS THE MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER TERMINAL IN THIS GALAXY OR MOST ANY OTHER.

WITH THE POTENTIAL TO DECRYPT AN UNFATHOMABLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION STORED WITHIN THIS BRAIN TISSUE.

YOU COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BY BOTH TONY STARK AND KITTY PRYDE, TWO PEOPLE WHOM I'VE NEVER KNOWN TO AGREE ON MUCH OF ANYTHING.

THEY SAY YOU ARE ONE OF THE SMARTEST BEINGS ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE UP TO THE TASK...

...THEN THE JOB IS YOURS, BROO.

MY OH MY. IF ONLY PROFESSOR LOGAN COULD SEE ME NOW.

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I STARTED IMMEDIATELY?

BROO.
MUTANT ALIEN BROOD.
FORMER X-STUDENT.
CURRENT AVENGERS
MOUNTAIN I.T. DEPARTMENT.

A comic book panel showing Wasp in a high-tech control room. She is looking out a large window at a spaceship in space. The room has various control panels and screens. Wasp is wearing her signature orange and black suit.

AGENT WASP
TO THE MOUNTAIN!
I COULD REALLY USE
SOME BACKUP! WHERE
ARE THE BLASTED
AVENGERS?

UM, THE
AVENGERS AREN'T
HERE RIGHT NOW.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME
TO TAKE A
MESSAGE?

ALSO, HI,
MY NAME IS
BROO.

SURE, BROO.
THE MESSAGE IS
I'M GOING TO DIE!
AND SO'S THE
ASSET!

OH
DEAR.

I WENT
SUBORBITAL
TO TRY TO LOSE
OUR PURSUIT, BUT
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO
BE WORKING. IN
OTHER WORDS...

A close-up panel showing several vampires. They have pale, greyish-blue skin, pointed ears, and sharp fangs. One vampire in the foreground is looking directly at the viewer with a menacing expression.

...WE'VE GOT
VAMPIRES IN SPACE UP
HERE! ANY ASSISTANCE
WOULD BE VERY MUCH
APPRECIATED!

AH YES, WASP,
UNDERSTOOD.
LET ME SEE WHAT
I CAN DO.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU PEOPLE COULD PROTECT ME. SO FAR, YOU'RE DOING A BANG-UP JOB.

I'D MAYBE SHUT MY BLOODSUCKING MOUTH IF I WERE YOU.

THE ONLY REASON I'M NOT FLYING US IN RINGS AROUND THE SUN IS WE NEED YOU ALIVE.

I'M A VAMPIRE CREATED THROUGH SCIENCE, YOU SIMPLETON. I DON'T POSSESS THE SAME FAILINGS AS--

THIS IS BROO AGAIN. I HAVE YOU ON MY SCREENS NOW. AND BY SCREENS I MEAN THE GIANT EYES OF A CELESTIAL. ADJUST YOUR COURSE TO THE FOLLOWING COORDINATES.

MORBIUS,
THE LIVING VAMPIRE.

NICE WORK, BROO. THAT KNOCKED OFF A FEW.

I DO HOPE THEY'LL LIVE. I SO ABHOR VIOLENCE.

BELIEVE ME, THE DISCIPLES OF DRACULA DON'T SHARE YOUR AVERSIONS!

AND THEY JUST RUPTURED OUR HULL! I NEED YOU TO REMOTELY PILOT THIS SHIP TO THE MOUNTAIN, BROO. CAN YOU DO THAT?

YES, OF COURSE. BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MISS WASP?

GO DOWN FIGHTING IF I HAVE TO!

THAT MAY NOT BE NECESSARY. I'VE LOCATED ANOTHER AGENT IN YOUR VICINITY.

MY VICINITY IS 60 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?



THIS IS SKYWOLF
MISSION. I SEE
THEM. MOVING TO
INTERCEPT.

SUPPOSE I'D
BETTER CHANGE
INTO SOMETHING MORE
APPROPRIATE.

JOHN JAMESON.
ASTRONAUT. MAN-WOLF.
AGENT OF WAKANDA.



"MORBIUS HAS ONLY TRIED
TO BITE OUR AGENTS A
COUPLE OF TIMES.
WHICH FOR A VAMPIRE...

"...I SUPPOSE MEANS HE'S COOPERATING."

OLD ASGARD.

AGENT WASP AND DIRECTOR OKOYE ARE CONDUCTING HIS DEBRIEFING AS WE SPEAK.

HAS MORBIUS REVEALED DRACULA'S REASONS FOR PURSUING HIM?

HE CLAIMS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT DRACULA'S FORCES WANTED WITH HIM. GIVEN THE SCIENCE-BASED NATURE OF HIS VAMPIRISM, MORBIUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING OF A PARIAH AMONG THE LARGER UNDEAD COMMUNITY.

HMPH. TO HEL WITH YOUR SCIENCE. HE IS STILL A VAMPIRE.

AND THOSE BEASTS ARE NEVER TO BE TRUSTED.

I SHOULD'VE SLAUGHTERED THE BLOOD-GUZZLING LOT OF THEM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE, BACK WHEN THEIR CURSED RACE WAS STILL IN ITS INFANCY.

ODIN BORSON.
ALL-FATHER OF ASGARD.
UNOFFICIAL ADVISER TO
THE AVENGERS CHAIRMAN.



THAT
BLASTED MOTHER
OF VAMPIRES. MY
PRIMORDIAL
COMPATRIOTS AND
I CROSSED HER
BLOODY PATH
MANY--

I'M SURE
THAT'S A RIVETING
TALE.

BUT I HAVEN'T
COME TO HEAR
MORE CAVEMAN
STORIES.

I NEED TO
KNOW WHAT YOU'VE
LEARNED ABOUT OUR
PRESENT-DAY VAMPIRE
SITUATION.

AYE, YOU
DO. AND I NEED
A NEW **RAINBOW**
BRIDGE.

HOW GOES
THE PROGRESS
YOU PROMISED
ME, KING OF
PANTHERS?



"AGENT MAN-WOLF HAS BEEN
WORKING WITH HEIMDALL TO
GATHER THE SHARDS OF THE
BIFROST THAT WERE SCATTERED
ACROSS THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

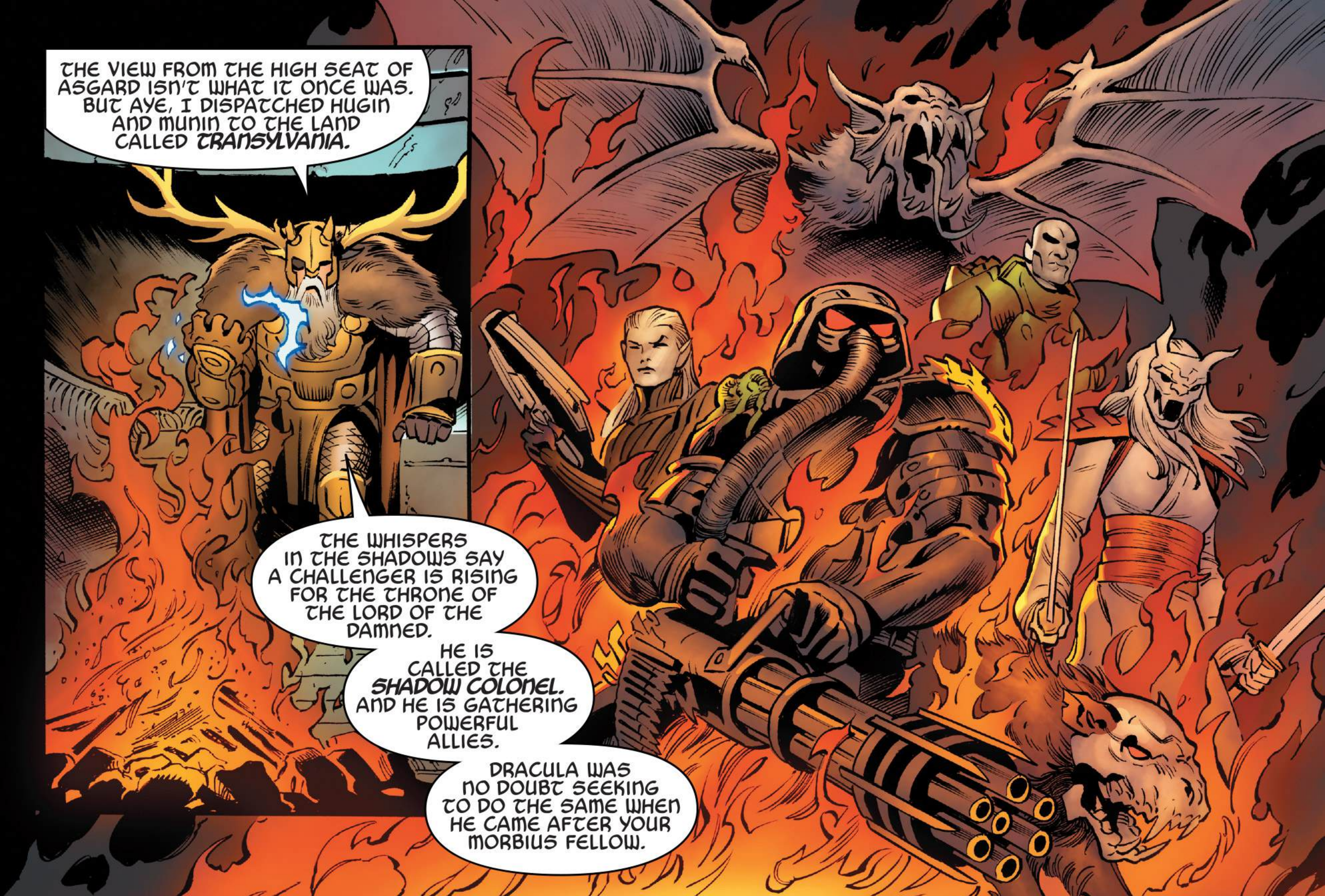
"ONCE THAT IS DONE, ALL
WE'LL NEED TO DO IS PIECE
TOGETHER THE LARGEST
JIGSAW PUZZLE IN HISTORY."



I KNOW A YOUNG
ALIEN COMPUTER
GENIUS WHO MIGHT BE
UP TO THE TASK.

'TIS A
STRANGE CADRE
OF WARRIORS YOU'VE
ASSEMBLED FOR
YOURSELF, PANTHER
KING. MOST
STRANGE.

SAYS THE GOD
WHOSE ONLY FRIENDS
ARE BIRDS. WHAT HAVE
YOUR RAVENS
LEARNED, ODIN?

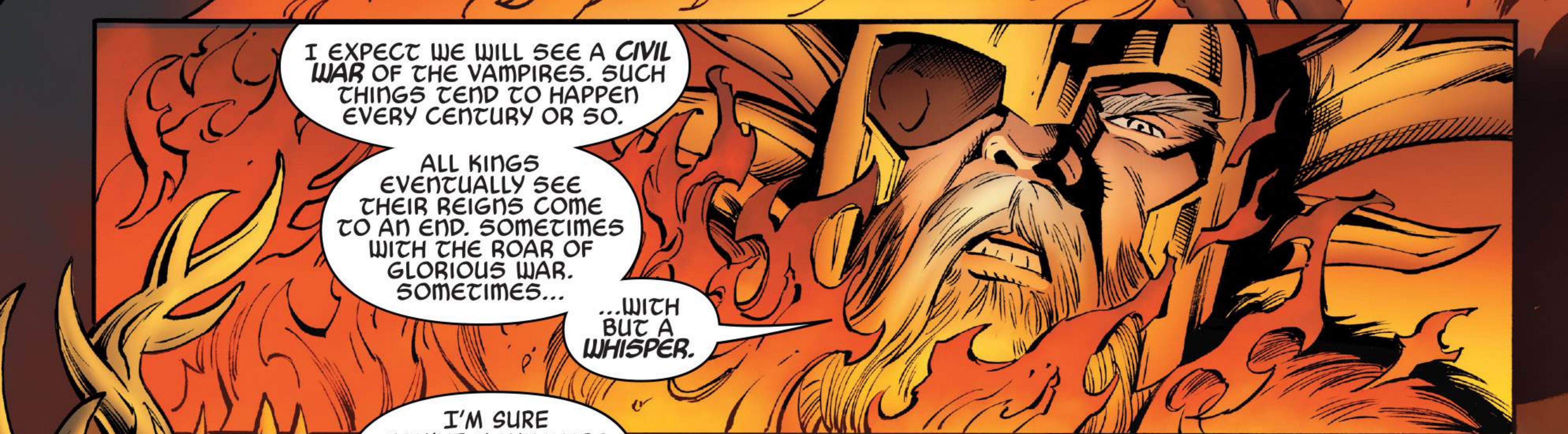


THE VIEW FROM THE HIGH SEAT OF ASGARD ISN'T WHAT IT ONCE WAS. BUT AYE, I DISPATCHED HUGIN AND MUNIN TO THE LAND CALLED TRANSYLVANIA.

THE WHISPERS IN THE SHADOWS SAY A CHALLENGER IS RISING FOR THE THRONE OF THE LORD OF THE DAMNED.

HE IS CALLED THE **SHADOW COLONEL**. AND HE IS GATHERING POWERFUL ALLIES.

DRACULA WAS NO DOUBT SEEKING TO DO THE SAME WHEN HE CAME AFTER YOUR MORBIUS FELLOW.



I EXPECT WE WILL SEE A **CIVIL WAR** OF THE VAMPIRES. SUCH THINGS TEND TO HAPPEN EVERY CENTURY OR SO.

ALL KINGS EVENTUALLY SEE THEIR REIGNS COME TO AN END. SOMETIMES WITH THE ROAR OF GLORIOUS WAR. SOMETIMES...

...WITH BUT A **WHISPER**.

I'M SURE YOU'VE MANY WARS TO LOOK FORWARD TO, ODIN, BUT FOR NOW, PLEASE KEEP TO THE WHISPERS.

AYE, CALL ME ODIN, GOD OF SNOOPS AND EAVESDROPPING BIRDS. PERHAPS I'LL TRANSFORM INTO A RAGGED HOUND AND SKULK AROUND TRANSYLVANIA MYSELF.



SUDDENLY I UNDERSTAND WHY MY SON SO RARELY COMES CALLING.

NO, I DON'T THINK YOU DO.

TRY NOT TO DIE FIGHTING VAMPIRES, LORD PANTHER. I WOULD MISS THESE VISITS.

YOU ARE A GOOD KING. THE HONORABLE SON OF A KING. A TRUE FRIEND TO THE GODS...

"...AND A CHAMPION OF THE FORGOTTEN."

MY FIRST PRIORITY IS TO THE REZ, BUT I SUPPOSE I COULD BUST SOME HEADS FOR YOU GUYS ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

MY PRIORITIES ARE MONEY AND NAZIS. GIVE ME SOME OF THE FORMER IN RETURN FOR KILLING LOTS OF THE LATTER, AND YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF AN AGENT.

DR. NEMESIS.
MUTANT GENIUS WITH X-RAY EYES AND HYPODERMIC PISTOLS.
AGENT OF WAKANDA.

FAT COBRA.
MASTER OF KUNG FU AND HEDONISM.
AGENT OF WAKANDA.

I WAS TOLD THERE WOULD BE A LUNCH!

AMERICAN EAGLE.
NAVAJO SUPER COP.
AGENT OF WAKANDA.

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
THE HAND HANGARS.

AGENT SOLOMON, OKOYE WANTS TO KNOW WHERE YOU'RE AT WITH THE WAR OF THE REALMS INVESTIGATION.*

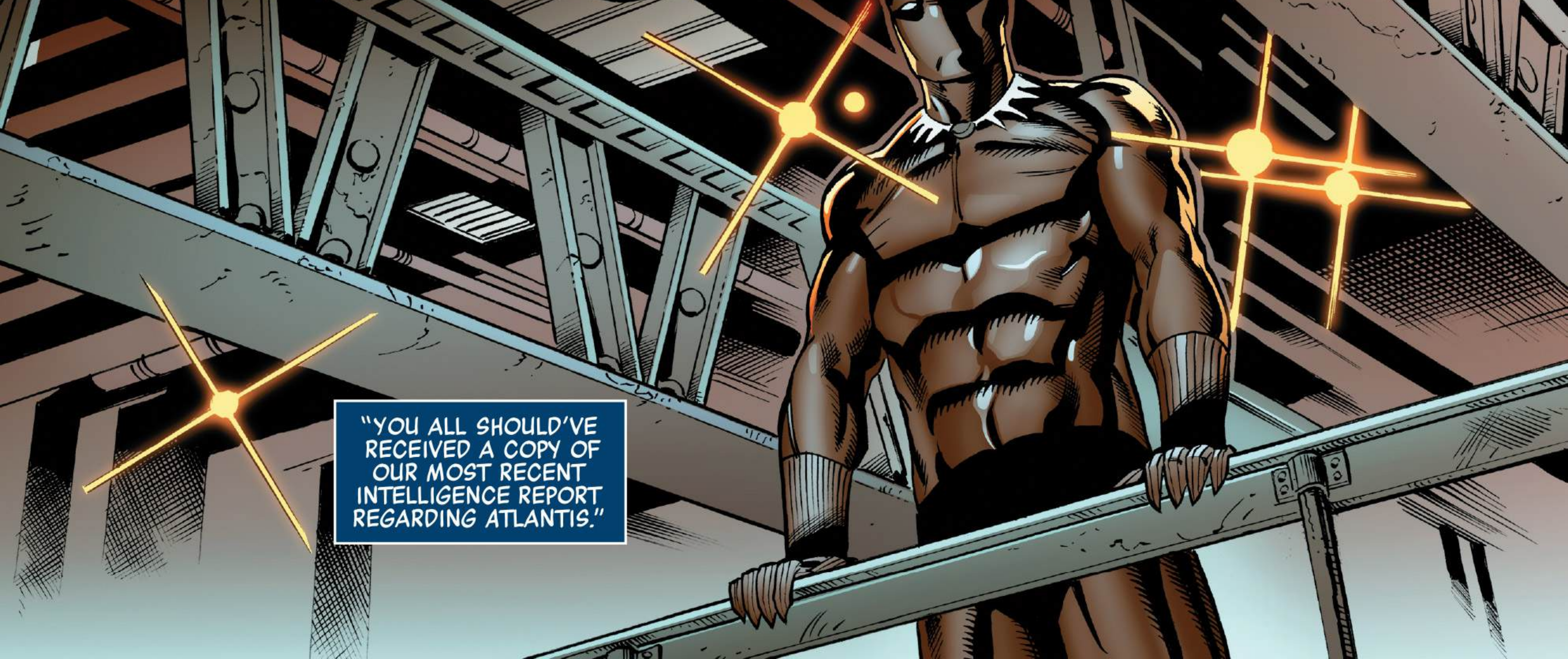
GATHERED SOME INTEL. SHOT SOME ELVES.

WELL THEN, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

RIGHT THIS WAY, FELLAS.

THE SIGNET RING BAY.

*LEARN MORE ABOUT AGENT SOLOMON'S MISSION IN THOR #9! --TOM



ATLANTIS CONTINUES TO BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR US, AND WE ARE MOST CERTAINLY LOOKING AT MORE CONFRONTATIONS WITH THE DEFENDERS OF THE DEEP.

UNLESS WE CAN FIGURE OUT A WAY TO PEACEFULLY DE-ESCALATE TENSIONS WITH NAMOR OR PERHAPS DESTABILIZE HIS REGIME.

GOOD LORD, T'CHALLA. THIS IS FIRSTHAND INTELLIGENCE FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN. TIME-STAMPED **YESTERDAY**. HOW DID YOU GATHER THIS?

AS YOU'LL SEE, IT DOESN'T APPEAR NAMOR IS CURRENTLY PLANNING A FULL-SCALE INVASION, THOUGH HIS OPERATIVES REMAIN AN ONGOING THREAT ACROSS THE WORLD'S SEA LANES.



I HAVE MY AGENTS IN THE FIELD. **EVERY** FIELD.

YOU ALSO HAVE A BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE TRANSYLVANIA REGION OF ROMANIA.

I BELIEVE WE'RE LOOKING AT AN IMPENDING CIVIL WAR AMONG THE VAMPIRES THERE, AS A NEW FACTION OF THE UNDEAD SEEKS TO DETHRONE DRACULA.

GIVEN THAT, I'D LIKE TO OPEN DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ACTIVE ROSTER ADDITION FOR--

WHAT THE MAN IS TRYING TO SAY IS...



...I'M
BLADE

I'M THE NEW
AVENGER.

AND WE'VE
ALL GOT A
WHOLE LOTTA
VAMPIRES
TO KILL.

**TO BE
CONTINUED...**



CLAYTON CRAIN
7 VARIANT



TRADD MOORE & FELIPE SOBREIRO
7 COSMIC GHOST RIDER VS. VARIANT



MIKE MCKONE & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
8 COSMIC GHOST RIDER VS. VARIANT



PHILIP TAN & MARTE GRACIA
8 VARIANT



DAVID FINCH & PETER STEIGERWALD
10 VARIANT



DAVID MARQUEZ & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
10 VARIANT

AVENGERS

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THOR! CAPTAIN! IRON MAN!
AMERICA!

the
the MIGHTIEST
700th
ISSUE OF ALL!!

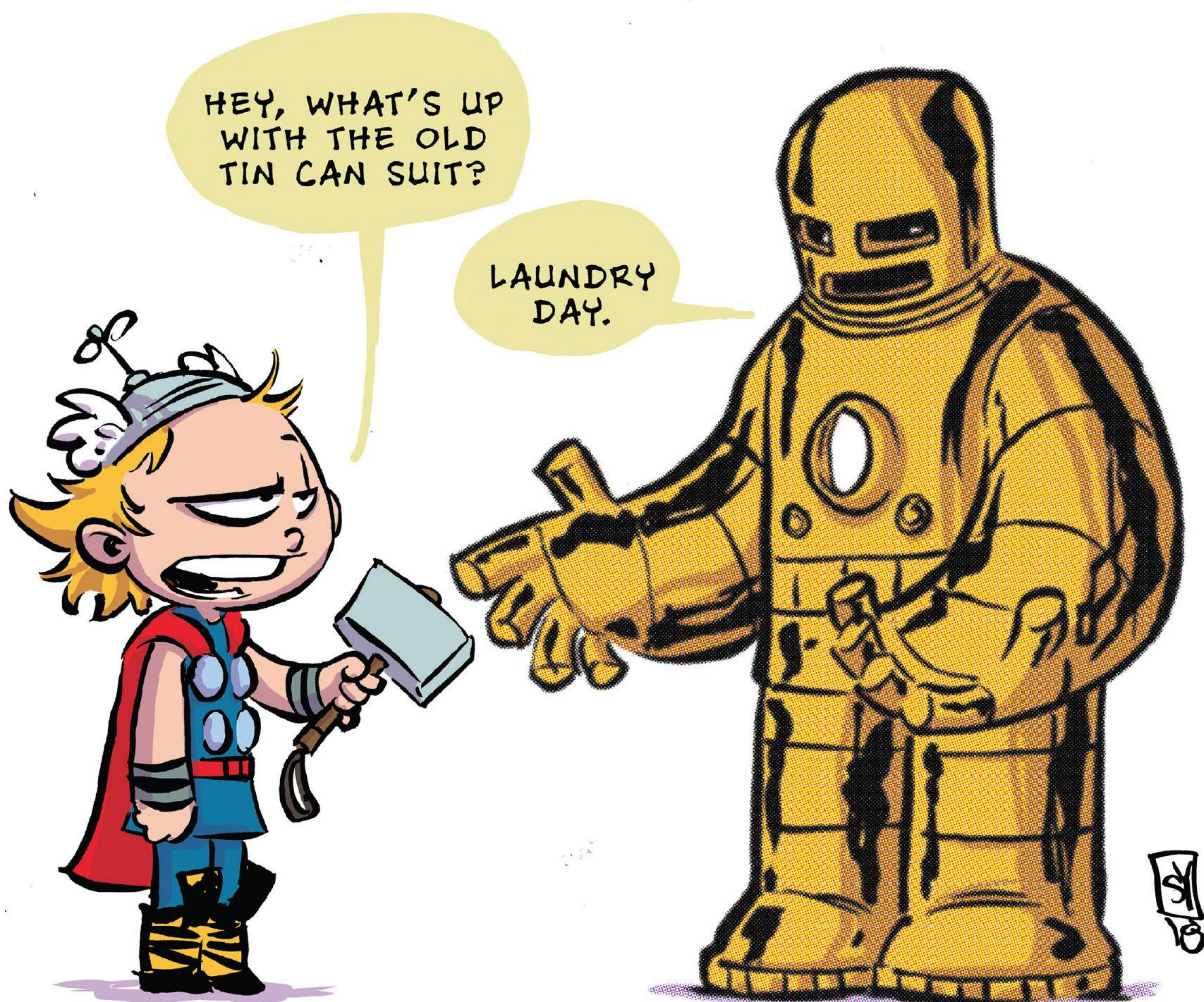


AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
AND WE DO MEAN ASSEMBLE!!

ARTHUR ADAMS & PAUL MOUNTS
10 VARIANT



ALEX ROSS
10 VARIANT





RON LIM, RAFAEL FONTERIZ & PAUL MOUNTS
10 VARIANT



GEORGE PÉREZ & JASON KEITH
10 VARIANT



CARLOS PACHECO, ANEKE & JASON KEITH
11 CONAN VARIANT



12 **MARVEL RISING ACTION DOLL HOMAGE**
VARIANT



PHIL NOTO
12 80TH ANNIVERSARY VARIANT

“Aaron is spellbinding when given one or two truly troubled characters, allowing their stories to really grow and flourish.” — ComicsVerse

BEHOLD THE WONDERS OF *AVENGERS MOUNTAIN!*

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THEIR WORLD-SHAKING BATTLE against the Dark Celestials, the new Avengers team is officially formed — complete with a startling new headquarters at the top of the world. From there, they’ll face a vengeful Namor and his Defenders of the Deep and the reimagined Russian Super-Soldiers of the Winter Guard! Plus: A shocking surprise from the U.S. government! The all-new Agents of Wakanda! The mystery of the Avengers of 1,000,000 BC deepens! Which startling character will become the newest Avenger? And if you thought you knew the beginnings of the Marvel Universe, you were wrong! Witness the prehistoric origin of the very first Ghost Rider — who rides a flaming woolly mammoth and battles a savage and familiar foe!



COLLECTING **AVENGERS (2018) #7-12** — BY JASON AARON, SARA PICHELLI, DAVID MARQUEZ.
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ELISABETTA D’AMICO, MARK MORALES, SCOTT HANNA, KARL KESEL, JUSTIN PONSOR,
ERICK ARCINIEGA, MATTHEW WILSON AND GIADA MARCHISIO.



v02 - World Tour Avengers by Jason Aaron <https://www.comixology.com/Avengers-by-Jason-Aaron/digital-comic/743837> Collects Avengers (2018) #7-12. Behold the wonders of Avengers Mountain! In the aftermath of their world-shaking battle against the Dark Celestials, the new Avengers team is officially formed — complete with a startling new headquarters at the top of the world. From there, they'll face a vengeful Namor and his Defenders of the Deep, and the reimagined Russian Super-Soldiers of the Winter Guard! Plus: A shocking surprise from the U.S. government! The all-new Agents of Wakanda! The mystery of the Avengers of 1,000,000 BC deepens! Which startling character will become the newest Avenger? And if you thought you knew the beginnings of the Marvel Universe, you were wrong! Witness the prehistoric origin of the very first Ghost Rider — who rides a flaming woolly mammoth, and battles a savage and familiar foe! Scraped metadata from Comixology [CMXDB743837], [RELDATE:2019-03-06] Marvel Superhero 161 en Kileko-Empire 2019 5 Jason Aaron Sara Pichelli Ed McGuinness